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Dad feared for girl's life after savage assault

Rinelle Harper. Mom says she has forgiven attackers who beat girl beyond recognition

When Julie Harper heard a knock at the door Saturday morning, she thought it was her 16-year-old daughter Rinelle who had been out celebrating the completion of her high-school midterms.

Instead, it was a Winnipeg police detective, there to tell her Rinelle had been beaten, sexually assaulted and left for dead beside the Assiniboine River. When she rushed to the hospital, Harper didn't recognize her badly beaten daughter.

"I can still see her, lying there," Harper said Thursday. "I didn't think that was Rinelle, but it was her."

Rinelle's father, Ceasar Harper, feared for his girl's life.

"The first time I saw her at the hospital, I (didn't) know what was going to happen to her," he said before breaking down in tears at a news conference Thursday.

"She looked so bad, beaten.... It's really hard to forget (how) I saw her at first."

Sexual-assault victims aren't usually identified publicly, but Rinelle's parents allowed police to release her name while they searched for her attackers.

Tips poured in, and two young men, age 20 and 17, were arrested Tuesday. They face charges of attempted murder and sexual assault.

They are also accused of aggravated sexual assault on a 23-year-old woman later that same night.

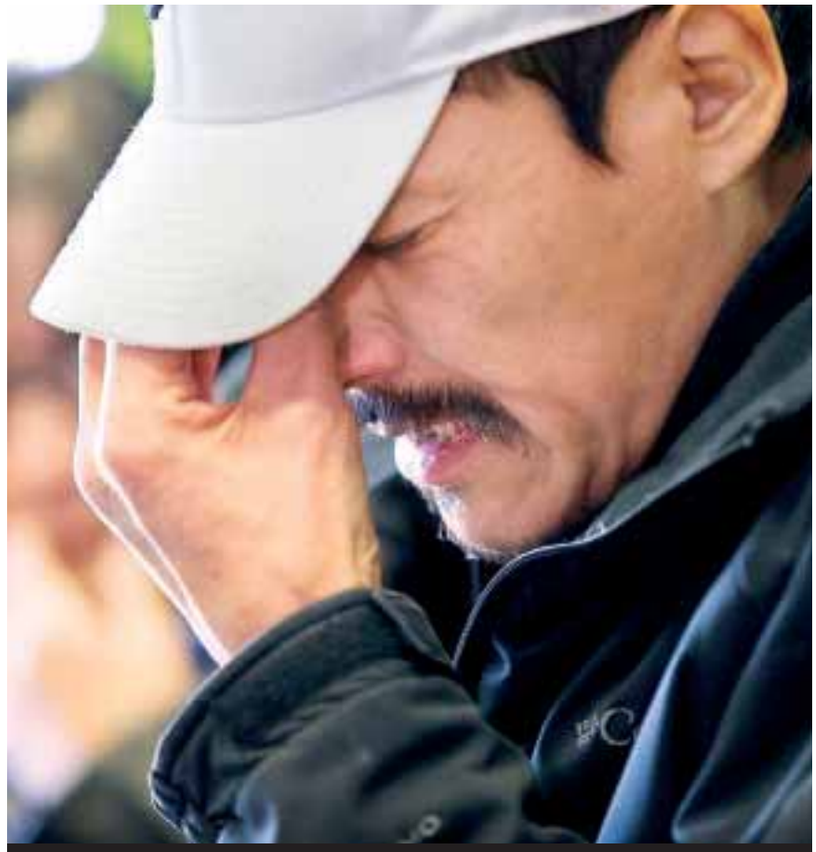
"When I first heard there were two arrests, the first thing that came to me was to forgive right away," Harper said following the news conference. "That's what I was taught to do by both of my late grandparents."

Rinelle was found by a passerby the next morning and was taken to hospital in critical condition. Her father said she doesn't remember anything about the attack.

Julie Harper said her daughter had just moved out of intensive care and into the children's ward Thursday.

"She's a big role model," she said. "She's a fighter. She's a hero to everybody."

Rinelle is already talking about going back to school, she added. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ceasar Harper, seated beside his wife Julie, breaks down in tears as he discusses his daughter Rinelle, 16, who survived a vicious assault last weekend at the MidTown Bridge. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEWS

Premier penalizes past ministers who questioned his leadership

Not backing down.
Greg Selinger said decision about 'solidarity and confidentiality'

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger penalized six members of his caucus who openly challenged his leadership — the latest twist in a battle for control of the troubled New Democratic government.

Selinger said Thursday the six will remain in caucus and be expected to vote along party lines, but will not attend caucus meetings and have no input on decisions.

"They sit in the chamber as (New) Democrats, they have ... the use of caucus services, but they have understood that they will not be part of caucus decision-making," Selinger said. "The fundamental principles of solidarity and confidentiality are important ingredients to caucus being able to function effectively, and those principles need to be respected."

Quoted

"We're trying to work out a situation where people can have a path back and we have a responsibility committee that's now been put in place." Premier Greg Selinger

The NDP turmoil erupted publicly more than two weeks ago, when five of Selinger's most senior cabinet ministers said he should consider quitting. The five — Andrew Swan in Justice, Jennifer Howard in Finance, Erin Selby in Health, Stan Struthers in Municipal Government and Theresa Oswald in Jobs and the Economy — later resigned from cabinet and were replaced with less-experienced caucus members.

A backbencher from Flin Flon, Clarence Pettersen, also said the premier should quit. He is the sixth caucus member who was disciplined Thursday.

Selinger has shown no sign of backing down. He has asked NDP officials to have a leadership contest, not just a review, at the party's annual convention in March. Selinger has also promised to plow ahead with the government agenda, including a throne speech next week and a two-week legislature sitting.

Party officials have yet to decide how the leadership issue will be resolved. Members of the party executive were to meet Saturday to try to hammer out details, which could include a special leadership convention earlier than March.

There was something of an olive branch in Selinger's announcement Thursday. A caucus committee will be set up to try to heal the rift and look for a way to bring the rebel caucus members back into the fold.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Greg Selinger, seen following a news conference at Sisler High School on Thursday, announced later that same day that six members of his caucus will no longer have input on decisions. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Wynne won't weigh in on Manitoba counterpart

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, who took over from a unpopular predecessor, said she doesn't have any advice for her Manitoba counterpart on how to deal with his political troubles.

"I've had a good working relationship with Greg (Selinger), and he's a very seasoned politician so I wouldn't step in to give him advice at this point," Wynne said during a photo opportunity at Parlour Coffee on Thursday morning. "I think he'll deal with his inner issues in his party."

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne chats with Manitoba Liberal leader Rana Bokhari. COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

But Wynne's coffee mate, Manitoba Liberal Party leader Rana Bokhari, was less positive about Selinger's long-term prospects.

"I'm not one to believe it's possible to run a leadership race at the same time as governing our province," she said. "I think he really needs to take a hard look at his decisions in the future."

Wynne was in Winnipeg to speak at a Liberal fundraising dinner, and to offer Bokhari advice on how the rookie party leader can take advantage of the current political situation in Manitoba.

"It's important to have Liberals across the country talking to each other about our vision for the provinces and for the national vision of the country," Wynne said. "People want positive politics. They want politics to be done differently, and they want practical solutions to the problems in their lives."

While in town, Wynne also toured the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, attended a national child care conference, and had a private meeting with Selinger.

COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

A to-go order?

Wynne's coffee talk with Bokhari left a bad taste in the mouth for staff at Parlour Coffee, who weren't told media would be invited to attend. The shop took to Twitter to voice frustration: "Happy to host Premier of Ontario this AM. Not so happy to host surprise media-advised provincial party photo op. Parlour is nonpartisan."

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Price tag. City, Manitoba Hydro spend $400K on holiday light display

The city and Manitoba Hydro will spend almost $2 million on holiday lights along Portage Avenue and Main Street over the next five years.

Metro has learned the annual cost of installing, maintaining and operating the lights is about $400,000. The city pays a little over half that cost, while Manitoba Hydro covers the rest under an agreement made when it took over Winnipeg Hydro.

The display has been a holiday tradition since 1929, but a pair of lighting designers thinks the city could get more bang for its buck by replacing the snowflakes and angels with more modern technology.

"For $1 million or $2 million the city could do something quite significant along an eight- or 10-block stretch," said Jeremy Kramer of Kramer Design, who created the multi-colour programmable light display on the Richardson Centre.

"Technology offers all sorts of possibility beyond traditional seasonal lighting. You could install lighting that uses different surfaces — building facades and sidewalks — instead of just being a fixture on a pole," he said.

Kramer suggested a permanent lighting installation could also be used to celebrate Canada Day, special events or even charity runs through downtown.

Meghan Athavale of POMO Inc., which creates interactive light projections on building facades, agrees with Kramer.

"The technology has come down a lot in price, so the city could ultimately save money if it installed something permanent," she said.

"You could do some really neat things, like have a contest where people could design their own light displays."

COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

In numbers

1929

First year that holiday lights were installed along Portage Avenue.

City workers install holiday lights along Portage Avenue on Oct. 30.

COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

Premier Greg Selinger learns about cyberattack monitoring from Sisler High School student Deven San Miguel, left, at the school Thursday. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

School gets $300K boost for cyber security program

Technical training. Sisler High School works closely with industry, will use state-of-the-art lab

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Sisler High School's cyber security academy is getting a shot in the arm from the province.

Premier Greg Selinger was at the school Thursday to announce the province is investing $300,000 to upgrade classrooms and install new equipment that will allow the school to create a network and a cyber security virtual data centre.

"Cyber security is one of the major growth fields in the information technology area because every organization has massive amounts of data, often private and personal information and it needs to be protected," Selinger said, explaining why the province is beefing up in the school's pre-existing program.

"When you can take a program that's been well developed by local leadership and be able to leverage it up to a higher level, we know it's going to benefit students."

As well as the technical upgrades, students will now also be able to access dual credits through partnerships with Red River College and the University of Winnipeg for advanced placement and post-secondary credits.

The school also works closely with employers to give students paid internships, work experience and jobs once they graduate from high school.

"There's no doubt the skills we acquired here are what got us jobs in the industry," said Nick Dixon, a former cyber security student from Sisler who's now working as an information security analyst at Seccuris.

"All this additional funding is really going to help us mentor current and future students of the academy."

Quoted

"There's no doubt the skills we acquired here are what got us jobs in the industry."

Nick Dixon, a former cyber security student from Sisler

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Complaint

Personal health info 'inappropriately accessed', province investigates

Manitoba's ombudsman is investigating after a former government employee was found to have accessed, inappropriately, the personal health information of at least 13 people.

A release from the province Thursday said the employee was working for Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors when the incidences occurred.

A human relations complaint from an outside agency about the employee in March prompted an internal investigation, which led to the department discovering the accesses, according to the department's assistant deputy minister, Bernadette Preun.

"It's a very serious matter," Preun told Metro. "For the most part, employees are very respectful of the fact that they have access to personal health information and there are a lot of measures in place to ensure that we are compliant with respect to the (Personal Health Information) Act."

Preun said the accesses happened over an extended period of time, but couldn't get into details about who was targeted or why, due to privacy concerns.

The department has contacted all those affected. METRO

On the web

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These images captured from surveillance footage show two suspects in the Nov. 3 theft of a poppy donation box (three pics) and one image of the suspect in the Nov. 5 theft. COURTESY WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

Police reveal poppy box theft images

Two incidents. Thefts occurred on Nov. 3 at a business in on McPhillips Street and on Nov. 5 at a grocery store on Burrows Avenue

Winnipeg police have released images and video of suspects in two poppy theft cases.

The first incident took place at 5:05 p.m. on Nov. 3 at a business in the 2200 block of McPhillips Street.

There, police allege, two men stole a poppy donation box with money inside and left the store without the staff noticing what had happened.

The two suspects are described as aboriginal in appearance, about 25 years old with a medium complexion and no facial hair.

The first suspect was taller with an average build, short dark hair, and wore red runners, dark pants, a red T-shirt, a dark waist-length jacket with a hood, and a dark baseball cap.

The second suspect is described as slightly shorter than the first, with a heavier build. He wore dark footwear, blue jeans and NYAC dark hoodie.

Police said this second suspect may be the same one being sought in connection to another poppy box theft, at 7:40 p.m. on Nov. 5, at a grocery store in the 1800 block of Burrows Avenue.

Police ask anyone with information to contact the District 3 Crime Unit at 204-986-2848 or CrimeStoppers at 204-786-TIPS (8477). METRO

Dined and dashed

Man charged with assaulting officer

An 18-year-old man is facing several charges of assaulting a peace officer after what police believe was an attempt to evade paying a restaurant bill.

Police said officers were called to a business in the 300 block of Portage Avenue Wednesday afternoon after two men ordered food and then tried to leave without paying. Security officers approached the pair; one fled while the other is alleged to have physically assaulted three security officers while in custody.

Police officers arrived and arrested the suspect, who then allegedly kicked an officer in the upper body, causing an injury. This officer was treated for minor injuries and released.

Hamza Masabo of Winnipeg is charged with three counts of assaulting a peace officer, public mischief, possession of a scheduled substance (marijuana) and three counts of failing to comply with the condition of a recognizance. METRO

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‘She was never the same again’

Child porn case. Parents of victim satisfied with conditional discharge

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

The father of a victim in a high-profile child pornography case said he feels good about the strong comments made by the judge during sentencing, but would have liked to hear an apology from the accused “when it mattered.”

On Thursday, a youth court judge gave a conditional discharge to a 20-year-old man who pleaded guilty to making child porn involving a 15-year-old girl. He cannot be identified because he was 17 when he committed the offence.

The girl died last year after she was taken off life support following a suicide attempt, and cannot be identified because of a publication ban. She was 17.

“There’s no sentence that would be good enough or strong enough to ever reflect what this did to my daughter,” the father told reporters after court. His name can’t be published because it would identify the victim.

The victim’s father said he was glad the judge spoke strongly to the accused about the impact the photo had on his daughter’s life, but would have liked to hear from the young man before the incident came to court.

“He knew the damage that this did, and didn’t do anything about it. He should have (apologized) when it mattered,” he said.

Nearly a dozen Anonymous protesters holding signs with the victim’s name shouted “f–k the ban” outside court.

Both parents read victim impact statements in court and wiped tears from their eyes, with her mother saying the photo “ruined her life.”

“She was never the same again,” her mother said. “The impact and trauma that followed her was enormous.”

A sheriff’s deputy stands outside youth court in Halifax on Thursday. A young man who pleaded guilty in a prominent child pornography case has been given a conditional discharge. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guilty plea

Man avoids jail time

A young man who pleaded guilty to making child pornography after he took a picture of an intoxicated teenager having sex at a party was given a conditional discharge and a sharp reprimand by the judge for destroying the girl’s life.

“He should never forget the promising, vibrant, young life that was eventually destroyed by his choice to record an act of sexual degradation,” Judge Gregory Lenehan told the packed courtroom in Halifax.

The young man will also have to register with the national DNA database and meet with a youth worker periodically for 12 months. He was also ordered to issue a written apology to the girl’s family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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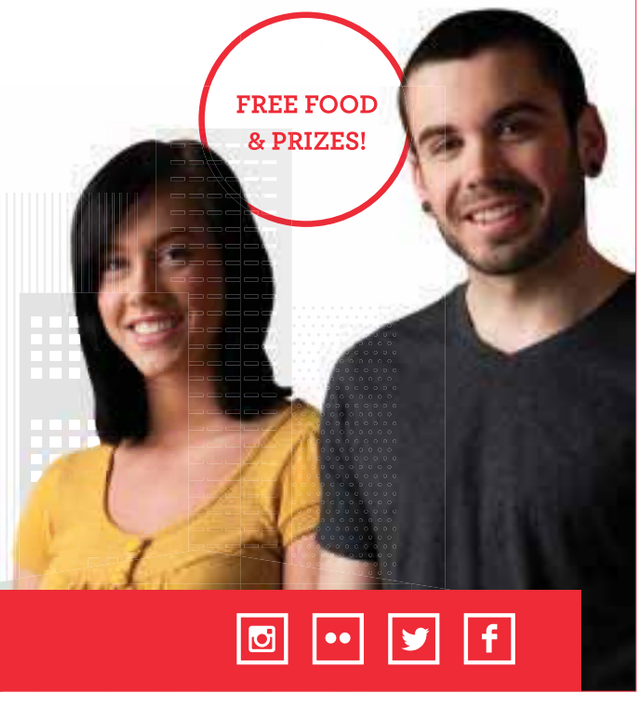

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Police launch investigation into 'phoney' soldier

Remembrance Day. Various media reports cite complaints from veterans and soldiers who noticed something was amiss

Police are looking into claims that a man impersonated a Canadian soldier when he showed up in full — but flawed — military regalia at this week's Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa.

Eagle-eyed veterans and soldiers knew right away that something was amiss as the man was being interviewed during CBC's live coverage of Tuesday's events near the National War Memorial.

CBC interview

- During a live CBC interview, the man identified himself as Franck Gervais — but the Department of National Defence says it has no record of anyone by that name.
- The public broadcaster has since issued a statement expressing regret about the interview, saying it would be "following up to learn more about the man."

Various media reports have cited complaints about the style of the man's beard, the type of beret on his head, the positioning of his medals and badges, and the fact that he wasn't wearing a sash during the interview. It is a crime under the Criminal Code to impersonate a soldier.

After initially saying they had not received a formal complaint, Ottawa police issued a tweet Thursday to say that they would be launching an investigation following "numerous inquiries" about the man.

"The man possibly made unlawful use of military uniform or certificates at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa," said the tweet.

Earlier in the day, an Ottawa police spokesman said no one had filed a complaint about the man, whose appearance on television reportedly prompted a number of complaints from veterans and soldiers alike.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta aboriginals join fight against B.C. Hydro

The W.A.C. Bennett Dam on the Peace River in Hudson's Hope, B.C., is pictured in April 2010. Alberta aboriginals have joined British Columbia First Nations in filing legal challenges to a B.C. Hydro proposal for another dam on the Peace River. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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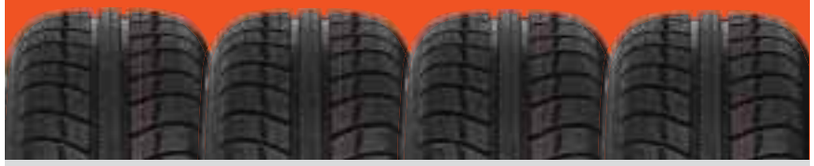

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Check ID if girl looks underage, cop tells johns

Sex workers. But new prostitution laws could be 'disincentive' for johns to call police, professor points out

JOE LOFARO
Metro in Ottawa

Det. Carolyn Botting, left, and Det. Kelly Lyle said the victims are happy with the 6-1/2-year sentence given to an 18-year-old woman who lured girls into a prostitution ring in Ottawa in 2012. JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

A lead detective in Ottawa's teen pimp investigation wants men who purchase sex to ensure the people they are having sex with are over 18 and willing participants. But an advocate for sex workers warns doing so might put johns in a legal quandary.

After the ringleader of the teen pimping ring was sentenced last week as an adult, Ottawa police Det. Carolyn Botting said men need to start talking to other men about the purchase of sex. "I think you have to do more than ask a person their age. You need to check identification," said Botting in an interview with Metro on Wednesday.

Chris Bruckert, a criminology professor at the University of Ottawa, said it is realistic to ask johns to make a better effort to ensure their customers are over 18 and consenting.

However, with the federal government's new prostitution laws that come into effect Dec. 6, Bruckert suspects the legislation will put johns in an awkward situation.

"If in fact they do call police because they suspect someone is underage or in a situation of exploitation, they're actually setting themselves up to be criminally charged," said Bruckert, a member of Prostitutes of Ottawa/Gatineau Work, Educate and Resist (POWER). "So, that's quite a big disincentive to not help the police."

Ottawa police uncovered the underage pimping ring in part because a john did call police after a girl who came to his door on May 18, 2012, told him she was 17 and was forced to be there. He later testified in court as a witness for the Crown.

Ottawa police identified four out of at least six johns in the teen pimping case. Only one was charged.

Prince Edward Island. Sewing needles now found in 10 potatoes, RCMP say

A metal object inserted in a potato is shown in an RCMP handout photo. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The RCMP in Prince Edward Island say their investigation into food tampering now includes 10 potatoes containing sewing needles.

The Mounties say the needles were found in three more potatoes originating from Linkletter Farms in Summerside, with the help of metal detection equipment.

The potatoes were returned as part of a voluntary recall and have been sent to a forensic laboratory for more testing.

Police were already investigating seven incidents of potato tampering throughout the Atlantic provinces.

The RCMP say three more pallets of recalled potatoes have yet to be examined.

The potato industry in P.E.I. is offering a reward of up to $50,000 for information as to how needles ended up in the potatoes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kink versus coercion: How experts test sexual desire

S&M and consent. Canada's top forensic psychiatrist explains what tests can tell us

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
Metro in Toronto

Some people are aroused by consensual sadomasochistic sex, and others are turned on by violating another person's consent.

In sexual-behaviour laboratories in Ottawa, it's possible to tell the difference.

The high-profile allegations against former CBC host Jian Ghomeshi have raised a lot of questions about consent and S&M.

"There are some people who, besides the fact that they may be interested in S&M sex, may also have arousal or sexual interest or sexual preference related to non-consensual sex," said Dr. John Bradford. "When we evaluate people ... we can tease out these types of things, to see what the sexual preference actually is."

Bradford has examined the country's most infamous sexually motivated serial killers: Paul Bernardo, Robert Pickton and Russell Williams. Bradford is the founder of the Forensic Psychiatry Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Ottawa, professor of forensic psychiatry at multiple universities, and a member of the Order of Canada.

He said that when discussing Ghomeshi, who has publicly acknowledged engaging in "rough sex," it's important to recognize that sadomasochism occurs all over the world between consenting people without issue.

He has not examined Ghomeshi and said he could talk only in general terms.

Nine women and one man have accused Ghomeshi of crimes including sexual harassment and non-consensual sexual violence. Ghomeshi has said through a Facebook posting that all of his sexual activities were consensual. He is under police investigation, but has not been charged.

Studying sexual preference

Bradford said a preference for non-consensual sex can be determined.

"We have sexual-behaviour laboratories where we can measure sexual arousal," he said.

Bradford said the subject would be presented with different situations — consensual and non-consensual — and his arousal would be measured to determine a sexual interest in violating consent. The subject would also be presented erotic aggression to determine sadistic interest.

Bradford said a preference for non-consensual sex can be determined by measuring physical signs of arousal, such as penis circumference.

If coercion, non-consensual sexual activity or violence is arousing to a person, it may be compulsive, he said.

"At a very high level, you see that in serial rapists and even people who go on to commit sexually motivated homicide. Like all biological things, there is a spectrum there."

Toronto police have opened an investigation into former CBC radio host Jian Ghomeshi. Three women have come forward with accusations of sexual misconduct against him. No charges have been filed. CBC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bradford typically offers his expertise at the sentencing stage of a criminal trial after examining the perpetrator.

"I suppose in theory, in extremely rare circumstances, it could be used as a guilt-or-innocence thing, but I don't think it should be. It's mostly related to treatability or rehabilitation and those components which come out at sentencing."

Nature or nurture? Choice or compulsion?

Even though Bradford is able to determine what people are aroused by, what's made them that way remains largely a mystery.

"What we know is that people who have atypical sexual interests, the best way to understand it is the same as anyone else. When we hit puberty and become sexually (mature) — we wake up, if you like — there's an outpouring of sex hormones, we develop a sex drive and sexual fantasies and urges.

"This appears to be pre-programmed. In other words, nobody chooses at that point to become pedophilic or have an atypical interest in S&M or things like that," he said.

There is research into whether developing an atypical sexual interest is nature or nurture, but it's inconclusive, he said. Most of the nature vs. nurture research is focused on criminals who commit sexually motivated homicides.

Some of those who commit sexually motivated homicides have been found to have brain damage or a chromosome abnormality.

However, that research can't explain why some people with atypical sexual preferences participate only in consenting activities, while others don't.

Bradford said there is promising research into how sexuality may be formed by the interaction of genetics and hormones while a person is still in the womb. That research is still too preliminary to be relied upon.

What's the deal with Big Ears Teddy?

As for one of the odder details of the Ghomeshi allegations — that he turned around his "Big Ears Teddy" so it couldn't see him become violent — Bradford said he couldn't know what it means without examining Ghomeshi.

But, if he were involved in a case with that detail, it would certainly be something he'd ask about.

"It may have all kinds of implications to it. It may be something to do with childhood.... It could be, in theory, very important if someone was engaged in a criminal trial and sentencing process. It may make the problems more understandable, and may also go to treatability," he said.

Professor remains defiant despite losing terrorism extradition fight

An Ottawa sociology professor says he will keep fighting for his freedom now that he faces certain extradition to France in a decades-old terrorism case.

The Supreme Court of Canada said Thursday it would not hear the appeal of Hassan Diab, wanted for questioning by French authorities in connection with the October 1980 bombing of a Paris synagogue.

Some time in the next six weeks, Diab — now locked in an Ottawa jail — will be whisked to France, where a judge will quiz him about the unsolved crime.

French authorities suspect Diab, 60, was involved in the anti-Semitic bombing 34 years ago that killed four people and injured dozens.

In a statement, Diab described life since his arrest six years ago as a Kafkaesque nightmare. He expressed shock and disappointment in the high-court decision and promised to never stop battling "the false allegations" levelled against him.

"I had hoped for justice from the Canadian legal system," he said. "I vow to never give up, and I will always remain hopeful that I will eventually return to my home in Canada and be reunited with my wife and children."

In keeping with standard practice, the Supreme Court gave no reason for its decision.

In submissions to the court, Diab's lawyer Donald Bayne argued that France's reliance on secret information raises basic issues of constitutionality and procedural fairness. Another key element of the case is the reliability of evidence that has been revealed to date — particularly handwriting on a hotel registration card allegedly penned by Diab.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supporters of Hassan Diab rally outside the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A U.S. Customs and Border Patrol drone aircraft lifts off Sept. 24 at Ft. Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Ariz. The U.S. government now patrols nearly half the Mexican border by drones, and it plans to expand the strategy to the Canadian border by next year. MATT YORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drones set to patrol U.S.-Canada border

'Change detection.'
Predator Bs sweep remote areas and take high-resolution images for analysis by experts

The U.S. government now patrols nearly half of the Mexican border by drones in a largely unheralded shift to control desolate stretches where there are no agents, camera towers, ground sensors or fences, and it plans to expand the strategy to the Canadian border.

This represents a significant departure from a decades-old approach that emphasizes boots on the ground, and fences. Since 2000, the number of Border Patrol agents on the 1,954-mile border more than doubled to surpass 18,000 and fencing length multiplied nine times, to 700 miles.

Under the new approach, Predator Bs sweep remote mountains, canyons and rivers with a high-resolution video camera and return within three days for another video in the same spot, two officials with direct knowledge of the effort said on condition of anonymity.

The two videos are then overlaid for analysts who use sophisticated software to identify changes — the tracks of a farmer or cows, perhaps those of immigrants who entered the country illegally or a drug-laden Hummer, they said.

About 92 per cent of drone missions have shown no change in terrain, but the others have raised enough questions to dispatch agents to determine if someone got away — sometimes by helicopter because the area is so remote. About four per cent of missions have been false alarms, like tracks of livestock or farmers, and about two per cent are inconclusive. The remaining two per cent offer evidence of illegal crossings from Mexico, which typically results in ground sensors being planted for closer monitoring.

The government has operated about 10,000 drone flights under the strategy, known internally as "change detection," since it began in March 2013. The flights currently cover about 900 miles, much of it in Texas, and are expected to expand to the Canadian border by the end of 2015.

The strategy was launched without fanfare and expanded at a time when President Barack Obama prepares to issue an executive order by the end of this year to reduce deportations and enhance border security.

Border missions fly out of Sierra Vista, home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center at Fort Huachuca, or Corpus Christi, Texas. They patrol at altitudes between 19,000 at 28,000 feet and between 25 and 60 miles of the border.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy concerns

Privacy advocates have raised concerns about drones since Customs and Border Protection introduced them in 2006, saying there is potential to monitor innocent people under no suspicion.

- Lothar Eckardt, the agency's executive director of national air security operations, said that cameras are unable to capture details such as licence plate numbers and faces on the ground.

Possible pitfalls to Keystone XL's progress

The wild and unexpectedly speedy ride of Keystone XL legislation through the U.S. Congress late Wednesday had supporters of Canadian oil hopeful of a celebratory end to the project's six years of stagnation.

Some realities, however, were setting in the following day. The biggest downer for pipeline enthusiasts came in news from Myanmar. That's where the White House hinted during a news briefing Thursday, during President Barack Obama's trip to Asia, that he might veto the bill.

If the legislation passes both chambers, and gets Obama's signature, it becomes law. But there are potential pitfalls that could prevent progress on the pipeline. Here are some of them:

• **The Veto:** A bill needs two-thirds support in Congress to override a presidential veto — which is 67 votes in the 100-seat Senate. The bill being pushed by Louisiana's embattled Sen. Mary Landrieu does not have those votes.

• **The Legal Issues:** The pipeline doesn't even have an approved route, at least not now. In Nebraska, the courts have thrown out the existing route, saying that the state's Republican governor used unconstitutional methods to approve it.

• **The Filibuster:** It takes 60 votes to overcome a filibuster in the Senate. Landrieu has said she thinks she has those votes. Other estimates put the support at around 58 votes. This suggests there might be some arm-twisting and vote-counting early next week. The House is expected to pass the bill easily but the Senate vote, expected Tuesday, will be a squeaker.

• **The Weather:** It's cold outside, and getting colder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Al-Qaida and ISIL may work together in Syria, rebels say

Terrorist pact. Officials believe militant groups have reached a deal to unite in fight against U.S.-led coalition forces

Militant leaders from al-Qaida and ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) gathered at a farmhouse in Syria last week and agreed on a plan to stop fighting each other and work together against their opponents, according to a high-level Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander.

Such an accord could present difficulties for Washington's strategy against ISIL. While warplanes from a U.S.-led coalition strike militants from the air, the Obama administration has counted on arming "moderate" rebel factions to push them back on the ground.

Those rebels, already considered relatively weak and disorganized, would face far stronger opposition if the two heavy-hitting militant groups are now working together.

ISIL — the group that has seized nearly a third of Syria and Iraq with a campaign of brutality and beheadings this year — and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as the Nusra Front, have fought each other bitterly for more than a year to dominate the rebellion against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Co-operation would likely fall short of unifying the rival militant groups, and experts believe any pact could easily unravel.

U.S. intelligence officials have been watching the groups closely and say a full merger is not expected soon — if ever. A U.S. official, who requested anonymity, said American intelligence has not seen any indications of a shift in the two groups' strategy, but added he could not rule out tactical deals on the ground.

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ISIL vs. al-Qaida

- **Warring factions.** ISIL entered the Syria war in 2012 from its home in Iraq and tried to impose itself as the leading faction in the rebellion behind which it feels all pious Muslims should unite. Al-Qaida initially rejected ISIL's claims to any role in Syria, and Nusra and other factions entered a war-within-a-war. But ISIL swelled in power, weapons and cash after overrunning much of northern and western Iraq.

Iraq. U.S. may waive law to fund extremists

The Obama administration is asking Congress to exempt its military effort against ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) from a longstanding ban on U.S. assistance to torturers and war criminals.

The move highlights doubts about finding "clean" American allies in a region wracked by ethnic animosity and religious extremism.

The proposal is included in a recent request to Congress for $1.6 billion to train Iraqi and Kurdish forces to fight ISIL as part of a $5.6-billion request to expand the U.S. mission in Iraq. Key Senate Democrats are expected to oppose it.

It would exempt the funds from a 1997 law that bars the U.S. from funding military units suspected of "gross human rights violations," which include murder, torture and extrajudicial imprisonment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vigil for slain Christians

A young Muslim woman pays tribute to a Christian couple slain in Lahore, Pakistan. Police have arrested as many as 45 Muslims in connection with the killing of the couple for allegedly desecrating the Qur'an. K.M. CHAUDARY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raids

Bosnian police detain 11 in terror crackdown

Police in Bosnia say they detained 11 people suspected of terrorist activities, including recruiting volunteers to fight in Syria for ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant).

More than 100 officers raided homes and businesses in the nationwide dragnet early Thursday.

Police said the raids were part of operation Damask, which began in September with the arrest of 16 people accused of financing and organizing trips to Syria by volunteer ISIL fighters.

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Rebel-held east

Ukraine officials say Russian forces will attack soon

Ukraine warned Thursday that the security situation is steadily worsening in the country's rebel-held east, as separatist fighters move closer to government forces. One official said he feared an attack soon by Russian forces.

National Security and Defence Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said the Russian army is massing troops near the border. Ukraine has accused Russia of aiding separatist forces.

Russian spokesman Alexander Lukashevich denied the charge.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ebola

Liberia lifts state of emergency, but virus now in Mali

Liberia's president said Thursday she is lifting a state of emergency imposed to control an Ebola outbreak that has ravaged the country, just as Mali reported that a fourth person is now believed to have died of Ebola in its capital. Mali had been spared from the crisis despite sharing a border with Guinea, where it began.

Meanwhile, Doctors Without Borders says accelerated clinical trials will be launched in West Africa to speed the search for a treatment.

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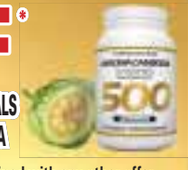

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Bigger than Tigger: Real tiger on loose near Disneyland Paris

On the prowl. With 70-kilogram cat nearby, police urge residents of three neighbouring French towns to stay indoors

Members of the police animal brigade walk through the streets of Montevrain, east of Paris on Thursday. French authorities said a young tiger, seen inset, was on the loose near Disneyland Paris and urged residents in three towns to stay indoors. THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French authorities said a young tiger was on the loose Thursday near Disneyland Paris, one of Europe's top tourist destinations, and urged residents in three towns to stay indoors.

The town of Montevrain sent out a news alert on its Facebook page Thursday saying a young tiger was spotted in the brush behind some tennis courts and a soccer field. The field is about nine kilometres from Disneyland Paris.

Around 60 police, fire and other security forces were trying to track the tiger, said Cedric Tartaud, chief of staff for the Montevrain mayor.

The tiger is estimated to weigh around 70 kilograms, Tartaud said.

Police were using a helicopter to help search for the animal, and a wolf-catcher was also drafted in to aid in the search, Seine-et-Marne authorities said.

Police and rescue squads at the scene roped off a security perimeter, authorities added, and they urged people living in Montevrain, Chessy and Chalifert to remain indoors. If they had to travel, police advised them to stay in their cars.

Disneyland Paris calls itself Europe's top tourist destination with 14.9 million visits in 2013. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parc des Félins

All animals accounted for at park

The Parc des Félins, a wild cat animal park about 18 miles from Montevrain, said in a statement on its website that all of its animals were accounted for and the escaped tiger didn't come from there.

EuroDisney, the operator of Disneyland Paris, said it has no tigers in the theme park, so the errant cat could not have come from there either. It wasn't immediately clear if any extra precautions had been taken inside the park. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overshadowed. Philae cut off from solar energy

This image released by the ESA Thursday reveals details about the composition of the comet's surface. ESA,ROSETTA,PHILAE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe's comet lander Philae has come to rest in the shadow of a cliff, posing a potential problem for its solar panels, scientists said Thursday as they published the first image ever taken from a comet's surface.

The photo shows a rocky terrain, with one of the lander's three feet in the corner of the frame. It is part of a slew of data that Philae is transmitting back to Earth, indicating that its instruments are working properly, said Jean-Pierre Bibring, the lander's lead scientist at the European Space Agency (ESA).

Before deciding whether to try to adjust the lander, scientists will spend the next day or two collecting as much data as possible while its primary battery still has energy. The lander's solar panels were designed to provide an extra hour of battery life each day after that, but this may not be possible now.

"We (can) see that we got less solar power than we planned for," said Koen Geurts of the lander team.

"This, of course, has an impact on our energy budget and our capabilities to conduct science for an extended period of time," he said. "Unfortunately, this is not a situation that we were hoping for."

The landing was beset by a series of problems that began when the thrusters designed to push Philae on to the comet failed, and continued when two harpoons meant to be used as anchors did not deploy. The lander bounced back up and came to rest on the comet two hours later inside a shallow crater, in the shadow of a nearby cliff, Bibring said.

He said the data they'll be able to collect with the primary batteries alone will have made the landing worthwhile.

"A lot of science is getting covered now," he said, noting they would soon receive data about the comet's composition and 3D images of the comet.

He said they will wait for the first batch of data to be completely sent before trying to move it and adjust its solar panels. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New window installed on 68th floor of WTC

Workers, using a scaffold, replace a window at 1 World Trade Center on Thursday in New York, the day after two window washers were rescued from a dangling scaffold by firefighters who cut through a window pane to reach them. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennessee

Sheriff's office pays virus ransom

The Dickson County Sheriff's Office in Middle Tennessee ended up paying a ransom after a malicious computer program blocked access to their files.

Det. Jeff McCliss told WTVF-TV that malware on a computer locked the agency's case files, which included autopsy reports, witness statements and crime scene photos. He says the malware, called "Cryptowall," doesn't tamper with files on a computer, but keeps them locked until a ransom is paid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shocking increase

Warmer temps, more lightning

A new study says lightning strikes in the United States will likely increase by nearly 50 per cent by the end of the century, as the world gets warmer and wetter. Researchers calculated that for every degree Fahrenheit the world warms, lightning strikes will go up nearly seven per cent. That's 12 per cent for every degree Celsius. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hachette, Amazon bury the hatchet

A real nail-biter. After some twists and turns the online retailer and book publisher have reached a happy ending

One of publishing's nastiest, most high-profile conflicts, the months-long standoff between Amazon.com and Hachette Book Group, is ending.

Amazon and Hachette announced a multi-year agreement Thursday. With ebook revenues reportedly the key issue, Amazon had removed pre-order tags for Hachette books, reduced discounts and slowed deliveries, hurdles that should be gone well before the crucial holiday shopping season.

"This is great news for writers," Hachette CEO Michael Pietsch said in a statement. "The new agreement will benefit Hachette authors for years to come. It gives Hachette enormous marketing capability with one of our most important bookselling partners."

David Naggar, an Amazon vice-president, said the company was pleased that the agreement "includes specific financial incentives for Hachette to deliver lower prices, which we believe will be a great win for readers and authors alike."

The agreement takes effect early next year. Restrictions on Hachette books are being lifted immediately, according to the announcement, although delays on Carlos Santana's The Universal Tone, J.D. Salinger's Nine Stories and other works remained in place two hours after the news broke.

The Amazon-Hachette dispute had dominated publishing headlines and conversations for much of the year. James Patterson, John Green and hundreds of authors from various publishers had condemned Amazon, and Hachette author Stephen Colbert mocked the online retailer, which prides itself on customer service. Meanwhile, Hugh Howey, J.A. Konrath and other writers published by Amazon had blamed Hachette and praised Amazon for keeping prices down and allowing authors unhappy with traditional publishers to release their work elsewhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More to the story

Hachette was among five publishers sued in 2012 by the U.S. Justice Department for allegedly fixing ebook prices. The publishers, who had worried that Amazon was charging too little for ebooks, settled and were required to negotiate new deals with Amazon and other retailers.

- Under the new agreement, Hachette set prices for ebooks, "and will also benefit from better terms when it delivers lower prices for readers."

Regulator RE-AKTs to helmet claims

Washington Capitals star winger Alex Ovechkin is seen wearing a Bauer RE-AKT helmet in this game photo from April. A U.S.-based hockey equipment manufacturer has agreed to stop making claims which "create the impression" that one of its hockey helmets offers protection from concussions, the Competition Bureau said Thursday. The federal regulator said Bauer Hockey Corp.'s claims made in advertisements for the RE-AKT helmet were not supported by adequate testing, a finding the company said it did not agree with.

STORY: THE CANADIAN PRESS; PHOTO: BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

BlackBerry makes a frenemy

An unlikely pairing of BlackBerry and Samsung, two rivals in the smartphone industry, took shape on Thursday as the Canadian technology firm announced it would make its mobile security technology available for the Android operating system.

It was a partnership that delivered a strong message: BlackBerry may have a lower profile these days, but it's still prepared to be competitive.

"I don't know how to feel these days. I don't know whether to wish Samsung success or not," BlackBerry chief executive John Chen joked from the stage at an investor conference in San Francisco.

Starting next year, business customers will have access to software on Samsung Galaxy smartphones and tablets that is linked with BlackBerry's new mobile security software, known as BlackBerry Enterprise Service 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Old college try?

Facebook shortens privacy policy

One more time, Facebook is trying to simplify its lengthy privacy policy — and make it much shorter — to explain how it targets advertisements to its 1.35 billion users.

The world's largest online social network uses the information people share on its site, along with the apps they use and the outside websites they visit, to show them advertisements deemed relevant to them. In the July-September quarter, Facebook reported nearly $3 billion US in advertising revenue, a 64 per cent increase from a year earlier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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'TIS EASIER TO SEND THAN TO RECEIVE

GUEST COLUMN

Kate Carraway
metronews.ca

Of the many new and exciting ways to be sort of awful to each other that the online age has created, sending links is among the worst.

It doesn't seem like it would be, I know. And maybe it's not, actually. Many a link — via email, text message, chat, and messages, direct or instant, to articles, memes, videos, and other Internet detritus — is sent with the best possible intentions. This includes stories that you're sure a friend would dig and probably hasn't seen, or a link to a zoo's "panda cam" sent on somebody's sick day, or A-grade gossip that is best circulated as-is for maximum *schadenfreude* impact.

But maybe more often, it's a ubiquitous bad habit enabled by social media; either a low-effort attempt to communicate something you don't or can't say yourself, or the casually passive-aggressive equivalency of an anonymous note — like, say, when I was exhausted by constant, pointless arguing with my then-boyfriend. I'd send him links to articles that more or less reflected my own position on a topic, and then would refuse to discuss or debate the links with him. (I now call that a "hit-and-run.")

One of my best friends hates watching videos online — something to do with having to locate and put on her headphones in her open-plan office — and just deletes them.

I don't like receiving a link of any kind without a note of context to let me know if I'm interrupting my daily sprint toward a deadline with a two-minute music video or a seven-page long-read about poverty.

Our individual Internet-styles are so totally personal and obscured from our friends and colleagues, and contingent on everything from loading speeds to work schedules and responsibilities, to emotional capacities for different kinds of content, that an act requiring the barest physical and mental effort to send can require much more to receive.

The "?" I might type in response to the sudden, stressful appearance of a link in a Gchat conversation — what will this be; what will the IRL implications be on my time and feelings and inbox; will I seriously have to click this and then respond to it — means my sweet friend sending a dancing pizza gif is cornered into explaining what was intended as a tiny, funny gesture.

Sending a link to someone is different in purpose and effect than posting it for any and everyone to see.

Even with the very kindest online instincts — a dancing slice of pizza! — comes an expectation that the sended-to person engages with some third-party stuff.

My own rule is to send something that I think someone might like, but never follow up or ask if they've read it.

It's not what your friend has to say, but what your friend wants you to see — that is a special kind of imposition on our attention, and a new, complicated social obligation to add to the list.

The politics of appropriation

A Burman woman in Kayan-Padaung attire with a fake copper neck ring stands with other women in ethnic attire to welcome leaders attending the East Asia Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Naypyitaw. GEMUNU AMARASINGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myanmar's 'diverse' greeters all come from dominant ethnic group

Women welcoming world leaders at the East Asia summit on Thursday stood in rows, clad in costumes representing Myanmar's many ethnic groups, some with their hair tied in high knots or wrapped in red headdresses, others donning horizontally striped longyis and silver coin-studded capes.

But the ushers did not belong to any of the minority groups they represented. All were Burman, the ethnic majority that has dominated the government, military and economy since independence from Britain in 1948. Myanmar, a mostly Buddhist nation of 50 million, began transitioning to democracy in 2011 following a half-century of brutal military rule and self-imposed isolation.

But while 40 per cent of the population belongs to one of more than 130 ethnic minorities, efforts by the new government to project unity often falter.

Take Naypyitaw. Purpose-built as Myanmar's new capital, it is dotted by impressive stadiums, enormous meeting halls and hundreds of villas. Gilded pagodas abound, but there is not a single church, even though 80,000 residents are Christian.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meanwhile ...

Myanmar's 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims, denied citizenship by the government, have been described by the UN as one of the world's most persecuted minorities. More than 140,000 live in crowded, unsanitary camps, unable to pass police checkpoints to leave without paying hefty bribes.

MetroTube

metro AR

What the heck is a Yaybahar? Read on, inquisitive one

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Designed in Turkey by Gorkem Sen, the Yaybahar is an acoustic instrument made from strings, drums and coiled springs that creates a fascinating sound mixing Middle Eastern music styles with space lasers. Get your headphones ready. More at soundcloud.com/gorkemsen. (Olgu Demir/Vimeo)

SCREENGRAB

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A B.C. woman's self-portrait with a rodent has done extraordinarily well on the Internet. We asked readers to send their best selfie with their animal buddy.

@jawnjang:

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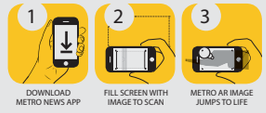

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Delayed sequels are often dumb

Movies. Twenty-year delay between Dumb and Dumber films invites comparison to such bombs as Bambi II, The Birds II and The Odd Couple II

It's been 20 years since the original movie, but Harry and Lloyd haven't gotten any smarter, or funnier. CONTRIBUTED

Twenty years ago, Roger Ebert wrote that a moment in Dumb and Dumber, "made me laugh so loudly, I embarrassed myself."

The movie, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels as the chicken-brained Lloyd and Harry, made $250 million at the box office and seemed likely to spawn a sequel, but nothing happened for almost 20 years.

There was a prequel — Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd — but it was a Carrey-and-Daniel-less exercise in futility I called on its 2003 release, "one of the least-funny and ineptly made movies to ever play at your local multiplex."

So why did it take 19 years and 333 days to release a Dumb and Dumber follow-up? Carrey says he wasn't into doing sequels but softened because everyone kept hounding him, he joked, "even dead people."

Fans had to wait ages for Dumb and Dumber's return, but two decades is a mere drop in the bucket when compared to the gap between the 1942 Disney classic Bambi and its sequel Bambi II.

A 10-year-old who saw the original would have been old enough to send their grandkids to get popcorn refills when the sequel hit theatres overseas (it went direct to DVD in North America) almost 64 years later.

And 30 years after Alfred Hitchcock made seagulls menacing in The Birds, a made-for-television movie called The Birds II: Land's End revisited the killer avian story.

Tippi Hedren, star of the original, signed on and it was shot in the same house as the first film, but that's where the similarities between the two end.

The New York Times called the film "feeble," and Hedren said, "It's absolutely horrible; it embarrasses me horribly."

Also, 29 years and 343 days after 1968's The Odd Couple hit the big screen, writer Neil Simon and stars Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau reunited for The Odd Couple II.

"We always had bad chemistry," says Oscar Madison (Matthau). "We mix like oil and frozen yogurt."

It marked the last starring roles for each of its leads and the final collaboration between Lemmon and Matthau after making 10 movies together.

These days, Hollywood seems obsessed with sequels and next year will be no different.

Mad Max: Fury Road, starring Tom Hardy in the role that made Mel Gibson famous, returns 30 years after Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome.

Jurassic World revisits Jurassic Park III, 13 years later.

But the biggest sequel news of the year — maybe of the decade — is the December 2015 release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

In the official Star Wars chronology, the new film follows 1983's Return of the Jedi after a space of 32 years and 207 days.

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

Dumb and Dumber To

Directors. Bobby and Peter Farrelly

Stars. Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels

In Dumb and Dumber To, Lloyd (Jim Carrey) and best friend Harry (Jeff Daniels) hit the road, this time in search of a daughter (Rachel Melvin) Harry didn't know he had. She's the "fruit of his loom" but could also be the kidney donor he needs to save his life. Two decades since the original, Harry and Lloyd haven't gotten any wiser but they haven't gotten much funnier, either. There are some astoundingly un-PC gags — and I mean "gags" literally — here, but none that reach the otherworldly vulgarity of the original's laxative overdose scene. Instead it's predictably silly, amiable stuff with wall-to-wall jokes and one-liners, some of which hit but most don't.

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From The Daily Show to directorial debut

Movies. Jon Stewart gets behind the camera for Rosewater and injects some humour in a dark story

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Last summer Jon Stewart disappeared for two and a half months so he could direct a movie in Jordan. The result, Rosewater, is not a comedy, though it has jokes. It's about Maziar Bahari (played by Gael Garcia Bernal), an Iranian journalist who wound up detained and tortured by Tehran officials for 118 days — in part because of his appearance on The Daily Show.

Nice shout-out early in the film to Pier Pasolini's Teorema.
You gotta respect the Teorema shout-out! Maziar may be the most culturally literate individual I've ever met in my life. His vast knowledge of literature and art and music and film — it's actually annoying.

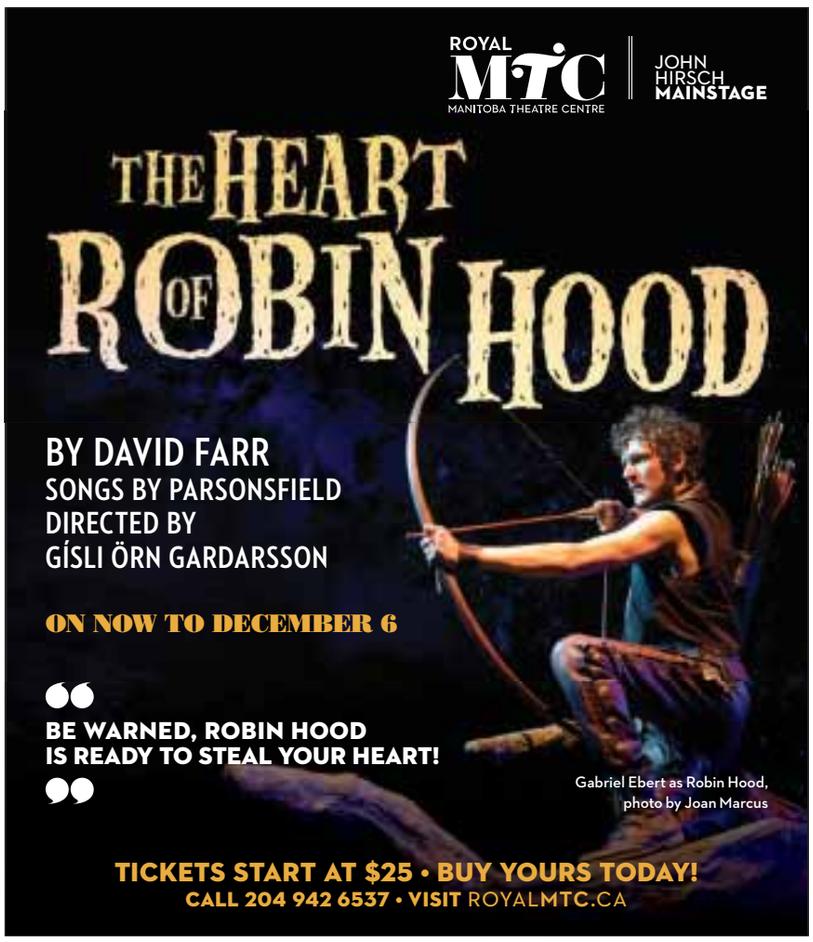
How did you prepare to direct a film? Did you bug filmmakers?
There were a couple of people I went to, just to ask, "Is this viable? I've written a script. Is it a script? Do you look at it and say, 'You know what, it turns out it's a recipe. This is actually mock-apple pie, it's not a movie.'"

Were there things that surprised you about filmmaking, things you weren't prepared for?
The availability of craft services. That was 24 hours of hummus and apricots, in a way that was quite surprising — and quite delicious. The process here wasn't alien to the process we use on the show. The difference is at the show we're in the same location every day. But we use the same sort of mechanics. So much of our time was spent trying to figure out how we can accomplish what we want to accomplish better and more efficiently. I had good actors, I had a good DP (director of photography), sound crew, production designers. So it was about making sure that the alchemy was right, that we were doing whatever we needed to make sure it all worked.

This is a more serious production than The Daily Show.
I don't believe so. On The Daily Show, we use the tools of satire to address war, death, famine, all kinds of things. With this, we're using the tools of cinema to address very similar themes and subtexts.

Can you talk about the humour in this film? It's far from a comedy, but there are jokes.
I think humour was so central to Maziar's survival and central to his memoir. I wanted to make sure we got humour in there, but in a way that we didn't impose it on it — not in any kind of contrivance but in a way that allowed it to grow organically from those situations. If we had heightened it and created farcical elements around it, it would have diminished just how the reality of the absurdity was so stark.

Jon Stewart's directorial debut, Rosewater, opens this Friday. CONTRIBUTED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Drama

Rosewater

Director. Jon Stewart

Stars. Gael García Bernal, Kim Bodnia

Rosewater is based on The New York Times best-selling memoir Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity, and Survival, written by Maziar Bahari. The film marks the directorial debut of The Daily Show host Jon Stewart, and stars Gael García Bernal. Rosewater follows the Tehran-born Bahari, a broadcast journalist with Canadian citizenship.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 73% **Audience:** + 91%

Drama

Mommy

Director. Xavier Dolan

Stars. Anne Dorval, Suzanne Clément

A feisty widowed single mom finds herself burdened with the full-time custody of her unpredictable 15-year-old ADHD son. As they struggle to make ends meet, Kyla, the peculiar new neighbour across the street, offers her help. Together, they find a new sense of balance, and hope is regained.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% **Audience:** + 99%

Action

Wolves

Director. David Hayter

Stars. Lucas Till, Jason Momoa

Popular high school student Cayden Richards wakes from a horrific nightmare, only to realize that he's living it ... He is changing into something vicious, unpredictable and wild. Forced to hit the road after the brutal murder of his parents, Cayden tries to hunt down the truth of what he is. In the remote, mountain town of Lupine Ridge, he discovers others like him.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 33% **Audience:** + 87%

Bringing 'were'-withal to Wolves. And howl!

Movies. Werewolf film director David Hayter on making the monsters that make the movie

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

A scene from David Hayters's thriller Wolves. CONTRIBUTED

It's taken filmmaker David Hayter seven long years to bring his werewolf thriller to the big screen, and in that time he's learned one important lesson.

"Vampires have it easy. You just put some pale makeup on a good-looking actor and a cool pair of teeth and you got yourself a vampire," laughed the 45-year-old writer-turned-director. "Werewolves are an entirely different thing. You can't scrimp on the creature because that's part of the joy of seeing a movie like this — seeing how the filmmakers execute the creature."

In the case of his forthcoming feature Wolves, that meant forsaking the budget normally reserved for an A-list cast to pour those dollars into effects and monster design. For Hayter's lupine lead characters, that meant no canine snouts ("they read like a big nose") and a focus on realism.

"We all think werewolves are cool but in their execution, they can really go badly," stated the dual Canadian-American citizen. "You have to determine what you think is subconsciously hilarious and take the edges off that."

Hayter didn't just want to explore the world of costume design. The screenwriter of such hits as Watchmen and X-Men aimed to spin a fresh angle on the werewolf mythology through a tale of a young violent teen who must come to terms with his wolfen bloodlines in a small town carrying dark secrets.

It may have been a challenge, but having studied under acclaimed X-Men director Bryan Singer several times, Hayter borrowed from the best.

"Pretty much everything I do in filmmaking I do with Bryan's voice in my head screaming at me not to turn out crap," said Hayter.

"Every element from creature design to screenplay execution to dealing with actors — all that stuff comes from what I learned from Bryan."

The greatest and the most underrated

The Most Important Werewolf Film: American Werewolf in London

- "It's such an incredible film, werewolf or no," said Hayter of the 1981 John Landis hit. "Obviously the prosthetic effects in it weren't only groundbreaking, but they continue to be incredible pieces of art today."

The Most Underrated Werewolf Film: Ginger Snaps

- "I didn't really understand the title and I just thought it sounded silly," said Hayter of the 2000 Canadian horror classic. "It had a couple of sequels so I guess it got a good amount of attention, but it was really good."

Reunion. De Niro tapped to work with JLaw again

Robert De Niro is in talks to join the next feature from David O. Russell, who directed De Niro and Jennifer Lawrence in the 2012 smash hit Silver Linings Playbook.

The film, titled Joy, is inspired by the biography of Joy Mangano, the single mother of three who invented the Miracle Mop and made a fortune in the 1990s selling the product on the Home Shopping Network.

While Jennifer Lawrence has been attached in the title role since January, The Hollywood Reporter learned this week that Robert De Niro is in talks to play her father.

The two actors previously worked together in David O. Russell's Silver Linings Playbook. Lawrence was also seen in the director's most recent film, American Hustle, for which she earned a Golden Globe for best supporting actress.

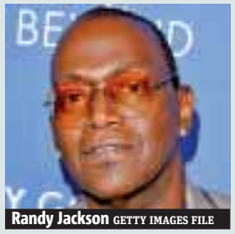
Joy is due in theatres on December 25, 2015.

AFP

Robert DeNiro. GETTY IMAGES

Television

Jackson confirms he's quitting American Idol


Randy Jackson GETTY IMAGES FILE

Bad news for fans of original-recipe American Idol. The last remaining Season 1 judge, Randy Jackson, has announced he is leaving the show for good. Jackson wasn't technically a judge for the 13th season of the series — he stepped into the role of mentor — but now he's leaving for good. "After 13 seasons, I felt now was the perfect time to leave," he told People magazine. For those keeping track, Paula Abdul thought that perfect time was 2009, while Simon Cowell thought it was a year later. Ryan Seacrest, on the other hand, is perfectly happy sticking around and asking audiences to send text messages. Season 14 returns in January. METRO

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When Peeta pines for his pet...

Movies. Josh Hutcherson is really happy to be finished filming the Hunger Games — so he can hang out with his dog

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The release of The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1 is the beginning of the end for the super-successful dystopian franchise (Part 2 won't be out for another year), but Josh Hutcherson is all done. And he's ready to relax and take it easy at home for a while — at least to keep his dog happy.

It's sort of past tense now that you're done shooting the Hunger Games films, but how did you fit in other projects between movies?
Between the first Hunger Games and the second one, I didn't do anything. I really enjoyed just living — which is so nice, by the way. Living is a great thing to do. You forget how nice it is until you do it sometimes. But then between Catching Fire and Mockingjay, I really wanted to do this project, Escobar: Paradise Lost, and make it work. I read the script for it before I even did the first Hunger Games, but it was just about finding the time for it. It was really important to me.

Do you have a sense of needing to seize on opportunities while they're plentiful and your profile is raised?
Truthfully, I haven't stopped working since I was nine. For the last 12 years, I've done almost a movie or two every year. So it's a lot, and I'm kind of now just realizing that the success of Hunger Games has afforded me the ability to not have to work right now. There's an element of wanting to strike while the iron's hot, of course, and because of that, I'm creating relationships with directors and producers and reading so many scripts, but I don't really feel pressure to work right now. I actually feel the opposite. I feel that I have pressure to relax. So it's good for right now. I don't have another project planned; I'm just taking it easy and reading scripts. I also want to develop stuff. I want to produce and direct in the future, so it's kind of getting my first step into that world as well.

I feel like you mentioned an idea of directing way back when we talked for The Kids are All Right. How has that progressed since then?
To producing. I've sort of gotten involved in that, and I think just through experience. Just being experienced on set and learning more from directors I've worked with, reading more stories and reading more scripts, you know more. I want to know more things before I direct. I don't think I'm smart enough yet.

Josh Hutcherson says he's ready for some time off following the wrap of filming the Hunger Games. CONTRIBUTED

I don't know, I've met some pretty dumb directors.
Oh yeah? Then f— it, let's do it right now!

If you're being forced to relax, what does that involve?
I was actually just in Hawaii, and that involved doing nothing. If I'm relaxing, I want to be doing nothing. I like to sleep a lot, lay in the sand, swim in the ocean — that's my idea of relaxing. But honestly for me, just hanging out. I don't do a whole lot. I like to go out, have some fun, go to some bars or something, but really just relaxing with friends, hanging out at the house, listening to music — my dog. I'm with my dog all of the time. He's the love of my life.

It must be tough being away from him for work, then.
That's the worst, man. It's also hard, too, because you can't explain to them. You can't be like, "Listen, I'm going to head out" — I mean, I still do anyway — "I'm going to head out, I'm going to be back soon. I love you. I'll be back, don't worry." And then that look, when you leave, oh my God. Every time I leave my house, even just to go to lunch or something and my dog's in my house, he's like, "Wait, you're leaving me?" Because they don't know. Sometimes you leave and it's a couple hours, sometimes it's a couple weeks or months — at least in my work — so it's like, s—, I feel so bad for them.

I always worry I'll come home and the dog will be indifferent to me.
That's my biggest fear. That's my biggest fear in life. Not death, not getting old — it's literally my dog not caring about me anymore because I've been gone too long.

Actors. Transformers producer Michael Bay freaked over Wahlberg's weight loss

Mark Wahlberg said Transformers director Michael Bay "freaked out" after the actor shed 60 pounds to play a down-on-his-luck college professor in his new movie, The Gambler.

Wahlberg began downsizing his famously muscular physique by jumping rope and sticking to a liquid diet as Transformers: Age of Extinction wrapped last year. He then shot The Gambler, set to open in theatres Dec. 19.

Transformers producers called for additional shooting after The Gambler wrapped, and Wahlberg wasn't exactly welcomed with open arms when he attended Bay's housewarming party earlier this year.

"He goes, 'You look like crap! What are you going to do? We've got to shoot in five weeks,"' Wahlberg said in an interview before his new film's AFI Fest premiere Monday night.

"I probably put on 40 pounds back. But it still wasn't enough for him. He said, 'Aw, I've got to shoot you like this to make you look cool again,"' the 43-year-old actor said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Wahlberg lost 40 pounds for The Gambler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Back due to questionable demand

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels spent 20 years away from their Dumb and Dumber roles. But fate — or in the Carey's case, a lagging career — means it's time for a sequel. He's not alone. Others have spent decades away from a signature role, only to be drawn back by need or greed

MATT PRIGGE Metro World News in New York

Jeff Bridges

Character: Kevin Flynn
Film: Tron: Legacy (2010)
Previous film: Tron (1982)
Time elapsed: 28 years
Disney double dips: The original Tron was not a hit (although the line of arcade games that sprang from it was). But nearly 30 years was enough time for it to amass a cult sizable enough for Disney to try again — which also meant the most recognizably human character, Bridges' feisty computer programmer Flynn, was now in his 60s. No matter: They used both an aging, more than vaguely Lebowski-esque Bridges as Flynn, as well as a creepy, digitally youthenized, version of same as his evil computer doppelganger.

Anthony Perkins

Character: Norman Bates
Film: Psycho II (1983)
Previous film: Psycho (1960)
Time elapsed: 23 years
Career killer: As Perkins would often complain, Psycho ruined his career, pigeonholing a budding talent into a series of creepy roles. He finally owned it with this surprisingly not remotely sacrilegious followup, which finds Norman returning from the hospital allegedly rehabilitated, but forced back into insanity by the meddling of others. The director was Australia's Richard Franklin, who made one of the best Hitchcock ripoffs, Roadgames, which is essentially Rear Window in a truck. Perkins returned to the role twice more, even directing 1986's Psycho III.

Dan Aykroyd

Character: Elwood Blues
Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998)
Previous film: The Blues Brothers (1980)
Time elapsed: 18 years
Smash and crash: Far more inventive than any SNL spinoff ever needed to be, the original took a questionable act — two white guys co-opting the blues — and piled on deadpan silliness and cars atop cars atop cars. This is a case where a movie is enough of a home video and TV staple to warrant a return — except one of the two leads was long dead. So John Belushi was replaced as Jake Blues by both John Goodman and a kid. Few of the few who saw it enjoyed it.

Sharon Stone

Characters: Catherine Tramell
Film: Basic Instinct 2 (2006)
Previous film: Basic Instinct (1992)
Time elapsed: 14 years
No legs: Even ignoring the trashy leg-crossing and enthusiastic bonk scenes, Stone's breakthrough performance is something else — a legitimately charismatic, seductive powerhouse that hit viewers as mightily as it did Michael Douglas' short-fused detective. A sequel was always a terrible idea. This pathetic, too-late sequel came out shortly after Stone had given a few terrific, possibly career-salvaging, performances. (She's great in Jim Jarmusch's Broken Flowers.)

Harrison Ford

Character: Indiana Jones
Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008)
Previous film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)
Time elapsed: 19 years
Whip without the wry: No one much enjoys this fourth Indy romp, with a 60-something Ford largely grumpy and uninterested in working the wry charm that made the character such an atypically rich action hero. But it has more moments than it might have seemed at the time, and does a fine job dialling down the first three films' casual xenophobia, if not outright racism (see: Temple of Doom's treatment of Indian cuisine). So there's that.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 14 TO THURS., NOV. 20 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Cinema City McGillivray 2190 McGillivray Blvd.

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Fri 4:30-7:05-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3:35-6:45-9:30 No Passes Mon 5:50-8:30 No Passes Tue 4:30-7:05-9:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 5:50-8:30

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri 5:10-7:45-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 No Passes Mon 5-7:45 No Passes Tue 4:05-6:45-9:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 5-7:45

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri 5:25-8-10:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:25-8-10:35 No Passes Mon 5:30-8:10 No Passes Tue 4:40-7:30-10:05 No Passes Wed 5:30-8:05 No Passes Thu 5:05-8:20

Gone Girl (14A) Fri 3:45-7-10:15 Sat 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Sun 2-5:15-8:35 Mon 5:05-8:20 Tue 4:50-8:20 Wed 8:25 Thu 4:30

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 8-9:15

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri 3:30-7:10-9:20 No Passes Sat 11:50-3:30-7:10-9:20 No Passes Sun 1:10-4:50-9:05 No Passes Mon 5:30-7:55 No Passes Tue 4:45-8:30 No Passes Wed 5:30-7:55 No Passes Thu 5:15-7:55 No Passes Fri 7-9:15-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 3:15-4:15-7-8-9:15 No Passes Mon 7-8:10 No Passes Tue 7-8-9:15 No Passes Wed 7-8:10 No Passes Thu 7

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 4:15-7:10-10 Sat 1:15-4:15-7:10-10 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:50 Mon 5:45-8:30 Tue 4:15-7:10-9:55 Wed 5:45-8:30 Thu 5:45-8:35 Fri 6:30-10:35 Sat-Sun 3:45-6:30-10:35 Mon 7:40 Tue 6:30 Wed 7:40 Thu 6:30

Rosewater (14A) Fri 4-6:50-10:45 Sat 1:05-3:50-6:50-10:45 Sun 1:30-4-6:35-8:30 Mon 5:15-9:10 Tue 4-6:50-9:20 Wed 5:15-9:10 Thu 4:45-9:10

St. Vincent (14A) Fri 4:30-7:20-10:10 Sat 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:10-10 Mon 5:10-7:50 Tue 4:05-7-9:50 Wed 5:50 Thu 4:15-8

Cinema City Northgate 1399 McPhillips Street

Annabelle (14A) Fri 4:50-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 2-4:50-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 6-8:30

Baaz (STC) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:20-8

The Boxtrolls (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

The Boxtrolls 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:40 Mon-Thu 5:30

Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri 3:55-6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:15

Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-6:45 Mon-Thu 5:35

Edsa Woolworth (STC) Fri 4:30-7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10

Hector and the Search for Happiness (PG) Fri 4:10-7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:05

The Judge (14A) Fri-Sun 4:20-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:50

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Sat-Sun 1:40

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 7:30 Mon-Thu 5:50

This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Fri-Sun 7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 8:25

Yoddha: The Warrior (PG) Fri-Sun 4-9:50 Mon-Thu 8:20

Cinematheque 304-100 Arthur

Ida (STC) Fri-Sat 9 Sun 7

City Cinema - Northgate 1399 McPhillips

Annabelle (14A) Fri 4:50-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 2-4:50-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 6-8:30

Baaz (STC) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:20-8

The Boxtrolls (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

The Boxtrolls 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:40 Mon-Thu 5:30

Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri 3:55-6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:15

Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-6:45 Mon-Thu 5:35

Edsa Woolworth (STC) Fri 4:30-7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10

Hector and the Search for Happiness (PG) Fri 4:10-7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:05

The Judge (14A) Fri-Sun 4:20-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:50

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Sat-Sun 1:40

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 7:30 Mon-Thu 5:50

This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Fri-Sun 7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 8:25

Yoddha: The Warrior (PG) Fri-Sun 4-9:50 Mon-Thu 8:20

Big Hero 6. CONTRIBUTED

Famous Players Kildonan Place, 1555 Regent Ave W.

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 4-7-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-8:40

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-7:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:40

Fury (14A) Fri 3:50-6:50-10 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:30

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 8:15

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 2:50-6:30-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5-8

John Wick (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:45 Mon-Wed 5:40-8:10 Thu 5:40

Ouija (PG) Fri 4:40-7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20

Grant Park 8 Cinemas 1120 Grant Ave.

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Thu 3:45

Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 6:45-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-6:45-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:45

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 3:55-6:55-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:55-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:55

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 7:05-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:40-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:05-10:05 Fri 3:40

Gone Girl (14A) Fri 3:20-6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon-Wed 3:20-6:30-9:40 Thu 3:20

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Thu 8:15

Interstellar (PG) Fri 4-5-8-9 Sat-Sun 12:20-1:15-4-5-8-9 Mon 4-8 Tue-Wed 4-5-8-9 Thu 4-8

Shakespeare's Globe on Screen: Twelfth Night (STC) Sat 11

St. Vincent (14A) Fri-Sat 3:35-7-10 Sun 12:30-3:35-7-10 Mon-Thu 3:35-7-10

Landmark Towne Cinema 8

9301 Notre Dame Avenue

Big Hero 6 (G) Sat-Sun 3:35

Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:25

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Thu 8-8:30

Interstellar (PG) Fri 8:15 Sat 12:55-4:30 Sun 12:30-4-7:30 Mon-Wed 7:30 Fri 7:30 Sat 12:30-4-7:30-8:15 Sun 12:55-4:30-8:15 Mon-Thu 8:15

John Wick (14A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40

Mommy (14A) Fri 6:35-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:35-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:35-9:30

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-6:55-9:35 Mon-Wed 6:55-9:35

Ouija (PG) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:35-7:15-9:45 Mon-Wed 7:15-9:45 Thu 7:15-9:30

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street

Before I Go to Sleep (14A) Fri-Sat 2:20-4:40-7-9:30 Sun 11:55-2:20-4:35-6:55-9:30 Mon-Wed 2:20-4:40-7:05-9:30 Thu 2:20-4:40

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Fri 2-4:40-7:20-10 No Passes Sat 11-2-4:40-7:20-10 No Passes Sun 12:05-2-4:40-7:20-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:20-10

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri 2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Sat 11:25-12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:25-5-7:40-10:20

Bolshoi Ballet: The Pharaoh's Daughter - Encore (STC) Thu 7

The Book of Life (G) Fri 3 Sat-Sun 12:30-3 Mon-Tue 3 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30 Thu 3

The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5:25-7:50

Dracula Untold (14A) Fri-Thu 10:15

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri 1:40-2:40-4:20-5:20-7-8-9:40-10:40 No Passes Sat 10:55-12-1:40-2:40-4:20-5:20-7-8-9:40-10:40 No Passes Sun 11:50-1:40-2:30-4:20-5:10-7-7:50-9:40-10:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:40-2:25-4:15-5-6:55-7:45-9:40-10:30 No Passes Wed 2:25-4:15-5-6:55-7:45-9:40-10:30 No Passes Thu 1:30-2:25-4:05-5-7:30-7:40-10:15-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30

Fury (14A) Fri 1:30-4:15-7:20-10:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:30 Mon-Wed 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:30 Thu 1:25-4:20-10:30

Gone Girl (14A) Fri 3:30-6:45-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-10:20

Gone With the Wind (STC) Mon 6:30

Hermitage Revealed (G) Sun 12:55 Wed 7:30

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Sat 11

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 8-8:30-11-11:30

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri 2:10-6:30-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:50-6:30-10:10 No Passes Mon-Wed 2:05-6:30-10:10 No Passes Thu 2:05

Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri 3:10-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sat 11:50-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sun 11:50-3:25-7-10:35 No Passes Mon-Wed 3:25-7-10:35 No Passes Thu 1:30-7-10:35

John Wick (14A) Fri 2:35-5:10-7:55-10:25 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:55-10:25 Mon 1:35-4-10:25 Tue-Wed 2:35-5:10-8:10-10:25 Thu 2:20-4:50-10:25

The Metropolitan Opera: Macbeth (STC) Sat 11

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 1:45-4:35-7:25-10:35 Sat 11:35-4:35-7:25-10:35 Sun 1:20-4:10-7:05-10:05 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:35-7:25-10:35 Wed 1:45-4:35-10:35 Thu 1:45-4:35-7:25-10:35

Ouija (PG) Fri 1:50-4:55-7:35-9:55 Sat 12-2:30-4:55-7:35-9:55 Sun 1:50-4:55-7:35-9:55 Mon-Wed 2:30-4:55-7:35-9:55 Thu 2:10-4:30-7:35-10:05

St. Vincent (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:20-7:15-10 Sun 4:20-7:15-10 Mon 1:45-4:20-7:15 Tue-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:15-10

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri 1:30-4:55-7:20 Sat 11:10-1:15-5:15-7:20 Sun 1:20-5:05-7:20 Mon-Thu 1:40-5:10-7:20

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Fri 1:35-4:20-7-9:50 No Passes Sat 11-11:20-12-1:40-2:40-4:20-7-9:45 No Passes Sun 1:10-1:40-4:20-7-9:50 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:30-4:35-7:15-10 No Passes Wed 1:30-4-7:15-10 No Passes Thu 4:35-7:15-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1:30

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri 2:25-5:10-8-10:50 No Passes Sat 11:50-2:35-5:15-8-10:40 No Passes Sun 2:10-4:55-7:30-10 No Passes Mon-Tue 2:15-5-7:45-10:25 No Passes Wed 2:10-5-7:45-10:25 No Passes Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:25

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri 1-1:30-2:40-4:15-5:20-7:15-8-9:55-10:45 No Passes Sat 12-1:35-2:40-4:20-5:20-7:05-8-9:50-10:45 No Passes Sun 1:30-2:30-4:15-5:15-7:05-7:55-9:45-10:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:45-2:15-4:25-5:05-7:05-7:55-9:45-10:35 No Passes Wed 1:25-1:45-4:25-5:05-7:05-7:55-9:45-10:35 No Passes Thu 2:15-4:25-5:05-7:05-7:55-9:45-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1:30

Fury (14A) Fri 1:45-3:55-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:20 Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:05-7:05-10:10 Wed 2-4:05-7:05-10:10 Thu 1:45-4:05-7:05-10:10

Gone Girl (14A) Fri 1:05-4:15-6:50-10:05 Sat 12:05-3:25-6:50-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:15-6:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:50-3:45-7-10:20

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Sat 11

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 8:20-11:20 No Passes Thu 8-11

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri 3:35-7:10-9:35 No Passes Sat 3:30-7:10-9:35 No Passes Sun 3:35-7:10-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:15-7:10-9:35 No Passes Fri 3-6:40-10:15 No Passes Sat 11:10-3-6:40-10:15 No Passes Sun 3-6:40-10:15 No Passes Mon-Wed 2:45-6:40-10:15 No Passes Thu 3

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 1:15-4-7:35-10:25 Sat 2-4:45-7:35-10:35 Sun 1:15-4-7:35-10:25 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:50-7:35-10:30 Wed 1:40-4:25-10:30 Thu 1:35-4:50

Ouija (PG) Fri-Sun 10:45 Mon-Thu 10:40

No purchase necessary. Contest entry open Nov 12, 2014 until Nov 16, 2014 to legal res. of Canada (excl. QC) of age of majority in their prov. of residence as of entry. Prizes avail.: 15 advance screening passes of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1" awarded in each of Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Halifax. ARV $25/ pass. Odds dep. on number of eligible entries rec'd. Internet, email address, math skill-test req'd. Rules and entry: www.clubmetro.com

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Lorde is the bestie for her Swifty retort to Diplo gag

Oh, Diplo. You should have known not to go after Taylor Swift. When the DJ/producer started a Kickstarter campaign to Get Taylor Swift a Booty, Swift's BFF Lorde came to her rescue in full force. "Taylor Swift Still Needs Your Help," the campaign page reads. "Any true supporter of TSWIFT would definitely not pass up this opportunity to improve her posterior! THIS is not a joke!" (Obviously it's a joke.)

The fact that Diplo happens to be dating Swift enemy Katy Perry takes this from a prank to some song-writing-worthy drama. While Swift may not have fired back, that didn't stop Lorde, who tweeted at Diplo, "Should we do something about your tiny penis while we're at it?"

Fraida not, Dumb and Dumber To: JLaw nixes flashback cameo

This was probably for the best, really. Despite being a professed fan of the first film, Jennifer Lawrence reportedly had second thoughts about her planned cameo appearance in Dumb and Dumber To — playing a younger version of Kathleen Turner's character, Fraida Felcher, in a flashback.

Jennifer Lawrence

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Lawrence happily filmed the cameo last fall but retained the right to nix it from the film's final cut if she didn't like it, and she apparently exercised that right. Sound judgment.

The Word

Achtung baby, there's U2 debris in those German trees

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Somewhere in a forest in Germany, a couple of suitcases from U2's private jet are just waiting for you to find them.

Bono and four friends were flying the band's Learjet 60 from Dublin to Berlin earlier this week when the rear door of the luggage compartment fell off and dropped 15,000 feet to the ground, along with two pieces of luggage.

While the pilots told investigators they felt a turbulence-like rumble, the crew and passengers didn't realize what had happened until they landed. "The aircraft and its rear door are painted black, so the search in the wooded area will be difficult," a spokesman for the German Federal Bureau of Aircraft Accident Investigation says.

All I'm saying is that somewhere in Germany, there's a hiker suddenly looking to shift 150 pairs of sunglasses on eBay.

Robin Wright

Robin Wright has Ben there, done that, breaks off engagement

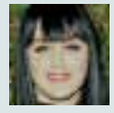
There's been plenty of reporting about Sean Penn's love life since divorcing Robin Wright, from his brief fling with Scarlett Johansson to his ongoing relationship with Charlize Theron.

But what about Wright? What's she been up to? Well, maybe you shouldn't have asked. The House of Cards star has reportedly broken off her 10-month engagement to Ben Foster, according to Us Weekly. "She got swept up in the engagement last Christmas, but then their schedules got crazy and she realized it wasn't the right decision," a source says.

But another source thinks it's all down to the age difference between the two. "The gap just ended up being too much," the second source insists. "Ben was kind of immature. She couldn't deal with him anymore." Ouch.

Twitter

@rustyrockets
Kim Kardashian's arse: A glistening portal to some memory of a time when we knew who we were and what we are? Or not?



@katyperry
Also we landed on a comet y'all

@rickygervais
Another day of acting, directing and ruining half the takes by laughing.

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Are you game to try something new?

This recipe serves six. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Pappardelle with Braised Rabbit. This pasta dish is off the beaten culinary path in more ways than one

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

If braising isn't in your cooking repertoire, it's time to add it — stat! This technique, which involves searing a piece of meat and letting it cook slowly in some stock and aromatics, delivers big flavour for a minimum amount of effort.

You will fall in love with this creamy pasta recipe. The rich sauce with braised rabbit is off the beaten path, since it doesn't include tomatoes.

Ragù

1. In a large saucepan or deep skillet over medium high heat, brown the rabbit in the butter. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside on a plate.

2. In the same saucepan, soften the carrots, onion and garlic. Sprinkle with the flour and cook while stirring for about 1 minute. Add the wine and bring to a boil, stirring constantly.

3. Add the broth, bay leaf and rabbit pieces. Bring to a boil, cover, and simmer over medium-low heat, for about 1 hour and 30 minutes. Remove the rabbit and bay leaf. Debone the meat and return it to the sauce. Adjust the seasoning.

Pasta

1. Meanwhile, in large pot of salted boiling water, cook the pasta al dente. Drain and oil lightly if they have to rest aside.

2. Add the pasta and herbs to the pan with the rabbit sauce. Stir to combine and warm through. Stir in the cheese and adjust the seasoning.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS SEPTEMBER!

Ingredients

Ragù
- 1 rabbit, cut into 5 or 6 pieces (or 4 rabbit legs)
- 1/4 cup (55 g) butter
- Salt and pepper
- 3 carrots, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch (1/2 cm) small cubes
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tbsp unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) white wine
- 4 cups (1 litre) chicken broth
- 1 bay leaf

Pasta
- 3/4 lb (340 g) pappardelle
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1 tsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 1/2 cup (50 g) grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Liquid Assets

Wild pairing indeed

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Growing up in Nova Scotia, I saw my fair share of rabbits in the wild, and sometimes even in my own backyard.

I was more into feeding them than eating them; though my grandfather was prone to springing one on me as an entrée during fishing trips we'd take together when I was a kid.

I've had rabbit since, but never featured on a bed of pappardelle à la Ricardo this week.

On its own, rabbit prefers a red. Its light, gamey flavour works well with wines made from Malbec, Shiraz and Pinot Noir.

In Ricardo's recipe the creamy sauce calls for a white liquid partner. A subtly oaked Chardonnay is a good choice, as is an Italian from Soave or a Pinot Grigio.

A white from France's Rhône region is an inspired alternative. M. Chapoutier's 2012 Belleruche Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc ($16.61 to $19.99) has a base of Grenache blanc that gives it bright aromatics and a full, round flavour that will appease both the protein and pasta dressing.

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Thrift stores full of hidden gem gifts

Unique items you can't find anywhere else

When you can combine finding the right item with helping out the community, well, then that's a gift that just keeps on giving.

The MCC Furniture Thrift Store, located on Keewatin Street, is a non-profit organization that raises funds for the Mennonite Central Committee. Run via a combination of four staff and 50 volunteers, the store has raised well over $1 million for the MCC.

"I love the idea that we are assisting people here in our community as well as in other parts of the world," explained Laurie Goetz, the MCC Furniture Thrift Store's manager. "We rely on the generosity of our donors who kindly gift us with gently used furniture and appliances. We also rely on graciousness of our volunteers from ages 14 to 86, who selflessly give of their time and resources to help us in keeping our overhead costs low so as to increase our donations to MCC.

"And, of course, we are dependent on the wonderful support of our customers."

Goetz explained that the store's patrons include newcomers, students, antique collectors, movie buyers, low and high-income earners, and those who just love to hunt for treasures or even just to stop by to visit with the friendly staff.

MCC Furniture Thrift Store manager, Laurie Goetz. CONTRIBUTED

The two-story building covers 10,000 square feet and features hundreds of furniture pieces and appliances. With new product added daily, some of MCC's customers come in a few times a week to see what's new, Goetz added. This is only one of four MCC Thrift Stores in Winnipeg. The first thrift store opened in Altona in 1972 that initiated a movement that would spread across the country, resulting in over 50 shops 42 years later.

This year MCC is celebrating 50 years of partnership with Manitoba in reaching countless lives through ongoing efforts in relief, development and peace. As of 2014, Manitobans have committed $200 million to international and local work.

There are hundreds of furniture pieces available at MCC Furniture Thrift Store. SHUTTERSTOCK

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41 shopping days left

There's not much parents wouldn't do to see their children's faces light up with delight during the holidays. SHUTTERSTOCK

Trendy toys to light up little faces

From Santa's sleigh. Playtime is getting a boost this season

JEN TAPLIN
For Metro

There's not much parents wouldn't do to see little faces light up with delight and make Christmas magical.

If your kids are shorter than you, likely you'll be buying toys with a familiar faces on them, said Victoria Spada-Miele, with Toys "R" Us Canada.

"Infants, toddlers, preschoolers and young kids are really into the licensed products of the characters they love, interactive toys with lights, sounds and songs, as well as construction and building toys," she said.

Spada-Miele split this year's hottest toy trends into five categories. The first she called customized creations; these are toys like the Crayola Paint Maker and the Doh Vinci Style and Store Vanity. Everything in the pets-without-mess category are furry toys like Lulu My Cuddlin' Kitty, which kids can train. In the kid-powered category, parents will be looking for the LeapBand Activity Tracker or the Nerf Rebelle Heartbreaker and Crossbows.

On-screen favourites are toys that "bring the characters kids love to life and help kids role-play their favourite movies," Spada-Miele said.

The last category she calls toys to life, and these are toys that merge traditional with digital. Check out the Toy-Fi Teddy, which is Bluetooth enabled, or Tamagotchi Digital Pets.

Toy manufacturers have their own lists of what's hot this year.

Little Pnuts

Founder, Melissa Bossola Beese, said kids are moving away from gender-specific toys.

"Children are beginning to look toward toys that engage through innovation. Marble runs, dominoes and building blocks are examples of toys that allow children to use their imagination to create just about anything," Bossola Beese said.

Toys that grow with kids are always a good choice for parents, Wiese said. An example is the Little Tikes Big Dog truck, which goes from a walker to ride-on with lights and sounds.

Mattel released its list of most popular toys this season, and for babies, the Fisher-Price Laugh and Learn Smart Stages Chair is at the top of the list. Barbie still reigns supreme. Mattel expects 2014 Holiday Barbie Doll to be a big hit for girls six and older.

From left to right, Fisher-Price Laugh and Learn Smart Stages Chair, 2014 Holiday Barbie Doll, Little Tikes Big Dog Truck, and the Little Pnuts Box.

Gadgets with more bells and whistles

Sure, your loved one may already own a desktop computer, laptop or tablet, but maybe it's time for an upgrade. Give them more power, more speed, more bells and whistles this holiday season by putting any one of these high-tech devices under the tree.

Samsung Galaxy Tab S — $419.99 and up

iMac with 5K Retina display
$2,749 and up

You've never seen an iMac like this before. Not only does it feature the latest quad-core Intel processors, AMD graphics, and new Thunderbolt 2 ports, it also boasts a stunning new screen. The Retina 5K display has four times the pixels of a standard 27-inch iMac, and 67 per cent more pixels than a 4K TV. Seeing is believing.

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro $549.99 and up

Samsung Galaxy Tab S
$419.99 and up

An Android tablet with more than just good looks. Its super amoled screen boasts rich colour with 100 times the contrast of standard tablets. Mutli-taskers will love the fact they can open two apps at the same time, or view their Galaxy smartphone's screen right on their Tab S with the SideSync feature.

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro
$549.99 and up

Designed for work and play, this unique tablet boasts an industry first: The ability to turn any room in your house into a home theatre. The built-in projector can project images up to 50 inches on any wall, plus there's eight-watt built-in speakers.

MIKE YAWNEY/ FOR METRO

iMac with 5K Retina Display — $2,749 and up

Ollie by Sphero — $99.95

High-tech trinkets

Disney Friends of Hue Starlight Starter Kit — $159.95

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

It doesn't matter how young or old you are, everyone loves unwrapping a gadget during the holidays. Here are some of the top tech toys you can give to youngsters and teens to ensure there will be no grumbling Christmas morning.

Smartphone Spy Lens
$20

Help youngsters let out their inner spy. This periscope-style lens allows you to shoot photos at 90-degree angles on your smartphone. It's made of high-quality glass to ensure image quality is not lost. Also works as a sneaky way to take pictures while texting. Visit the website: photo-jojo.com.

Adidas miCoach Smartball
$299.95

Help your child improve their kicking technique with this smart soccer ball from Adidas. The built-in sensor provides instant feedback on power, trajectory, spin and strike accuracy, displaying it all on your iOS device. Despite the technology inside, it still maintains the weight and feel of a regular soccer ball.

JBL Pulse — $229.95

Ollie by Sphero
$99.95

A stunt robot built for speed. Controlled by your smartphone, Ollie can race, spin, drift and flip around your home, or outside. You can also customize Ollie with tires and hubcaps. This unique toy can reach speeds of up to 22.5 km/h.

Tiggly Shapes
$29.95

Show your little ones how much fun learning can be. These rubberized shapes are used in conjunction with Apple's iPad to help youngsters not only learn shapes but help improve their motor skills through games. Each shape is rubberized and designed not to scratch your iPad's screen.

Smartphone Spy Lens — $20

Disney Friends of Hue Starlight Starter Kit
$159.95

Bring Disney stories to life through this magical light. This Mickey-shaped LED light pairs with your iPad, change the lighting of the room to match the mood of the Disney stories included in the iPad app. You can also use the light on its own, choosing from one of 16 million colour choices. Perfect for a young child who is scared of the dark.

JBL Pulse
$229.95

A portable speaker that makes a statement. Not only does this compact Bluetooth speaker sound great, it looks great, too. Internal LEDs pulsate to the beat of your music, creating a customized light show. You can also fine-tune the lighting effects (or turn them off) with your smartphone. The rechargeable battery will let your beats keep pumping for a long time — transforming any place into an instant party.

Adidas miCoach Smartball — $299.95

The best gifts are the edible ones

Lemon Cranberry Biscotti

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
2. Combine flour, sugar, cranberries, lemon zest and baking powder. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, butter, lemon juice and vanilla until well blended.
3. Pour liquid ingredients over dry ingredients. Stir until a stiff dough is formed. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead in any remaining bits of dough. Divide dough in half. Gently form each half into a log 12 x 1 ½ inches. Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet, leaving at least 3 inches between the logs. Flatten the top of each with the palm of your hand until the log is 2-inches wide. Bake 23 to 25 minutes or until the top of the log is firm to the touch.
4. Cool the logs completely.
5. Reduce oven temperature to 300°F (150°C). Remove the cooled logs to a cutting board. Cut each diagonally into ½-inch wide slices. Place on the same baking sheet. Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until slices are dry and light golden in colour. Cool biscotti on baking sheet on a wire rack. Store at room temperature. **NEWS CANADA**

Ingredients

Makes 24 servings
- 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 mL) sugar
- 1 cup (250 mL) dried cranberries
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) lemon zest
- 2 tsp (10 mL) baking powder
- 3 large eggs
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) butter, melted
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) lemon juice
- 2 tsp (10 mL) vanilla

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Ways to save during the holidays

Budget-friendly. For gifts and outings, you can have fun and save

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

It's the most spend-happy time of the year. Indeed, when it comes to the holiday season, budgets can easily and quickly get tossed out into the nearest snow bank. So how can we stay on track this year? Here are some tips on how to save this Christmas.

Think outside the ... well, just outside Getting out and enjoying the outdoors over the holiday season can be friendlier to your wallet than catching the latest holiday movie. "Strap on a pair of skates and find an outdoor rink for a quick game of family shinny. If you live in a rural area or an urban environment with some green space, the cheap recreational possibilities are endless," says Kyle Prevost, co-authors of the website YoungandThrifty.ca. "If the weather outside is frightful, introduce some young members of your family to a favourite board game that has been collecting dust for the last couple of years."

Get Googling … and make the most of your online shopping. "If you hate trying to keep track of coupons, just Google 'promo code ____' before taking your online cart through the checkout and you can often save a huge amount off of the original price or at the very least snag free shipping," suggested Prevost. In addition, check other alternative retailers than the primary one you're shopping with for deals such as eBay, Kijiji and Craigslist.

Team up on gifts That way you could collectively spring for larger items that normally wouldn't fit in your budget. "This year, my spouse and I are teaming up with my parents to get my brother and his spouse camping Therm-a-rests," says Anne Keery, who runs the blog uniquegifter.com.

Getting outside and enjoying the activities isn't just thrifty — it's fun. SHUTTERSTOCK

The Jets' Dustin Byfuglien tries to get a shot off against the Hurricanes' Jay Harrison, centre, and Jay McClement in Raleigh, N.C., on Thursday night.
GERRY BROOME/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wheeler steers Jets past Hurricanes

NHL. Winnipeg bounces back from being shut out to improve to 7-1-2 in its last 10 games

On Thursday

Jets	Hurricanes
3	1

Blake Wheeler scored two goals and got an assist and the Winnipeg Jets beat the Carolina Hurricanes 3-1 on Thursday night.

The Jets, who are in the middle of a five-game road trip, won for the fifth time in seven games and bounced back from a shutout loss in their previous game. They've gone 7-1-2 in their last 10 games.

Carolina lost for the second time in three games since winning four straight.

Wheeler gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 5:29 to get his sixth goal of the season.

Elias Lindholm scored Carolina's goal on the power play at 3:44 of the second period to tie the score at 1-1. He slammed the puck off Mark Stuart's skate and Hutchinson was not able to stop the deflection. Lindholm has points in six of the last seven games.

The tie score didn't last as Wheeler scored on a tip in at the front of the net to push the Jets back into the lead 2-1.

Michael Frolik put the game out of reach with an empty-net goal for Winnipeg with 1:30 left in the game.

Winnipeg backup goalkeeper Michael Hutchinson (2-1-0) earned the win with 22 saves.

Hurricanes goalkeeper Cam Ward had his five-game winning streak snapped and finished with 34 saves.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MVP

Kershaw turns awards double-play

Clayton Kershaw became the first pitcher to win the National League MVP award in nearly a half-century, coasting to an easy victory Thursday.

Kershaw got 18 of 30 first-place votes and 355 points in balloting, breezing past Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton and Pittsburgh outfielder Andrew McCutchen for the NL award.

Bob Gibson in 1968 was the previous pitcher to be the NL MVP. Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander won the AL MVP in 2011

Mike Trout was a unanimous pick for the AL honour after finishing second the previous two years. The 23-year-old became the fifth-youngest MVP in major-league history and the youngest unanimous selection.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$68M pact

V-Mart, Tigers agree on 4-year deal: Report

Victor Martinez has agreed to a $68-million, four-year contract to stay with the Detroit Tigers, according to a person with knowledge of the deal.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press on Thursday because the agreement has not been announced.

The 35-year-old Martinez had perhaps his best season in 2014, hitting .335 with 32 home runs and 103 RBIs and helping Detroit to its fourth straight AL Central title. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crosby empathizes with injured OHL phenom

The Erie Otters' Connor McDavid, left, absorbs a check from Jalen Chatfield of the Windsor Spitfires on Sept. 26 in Windsor. DENNIS PAJOT/GETTY IMAGES

Sidney Crosby didn't see the fight that caused Connor McDavid to break a bone in his hand. Still, the NHL superstar understands what it's like to get picked on as a junior-hockey prospect.

"I'm sure he's got a target on his back," Crosby said Thursday. "It's not easy sometimes. It's one of those flukey things. But no matter how many times you've done it, even if you talk to guys who have fought for years, anything can happen in a fight and you really do have to be careful."

Making his points

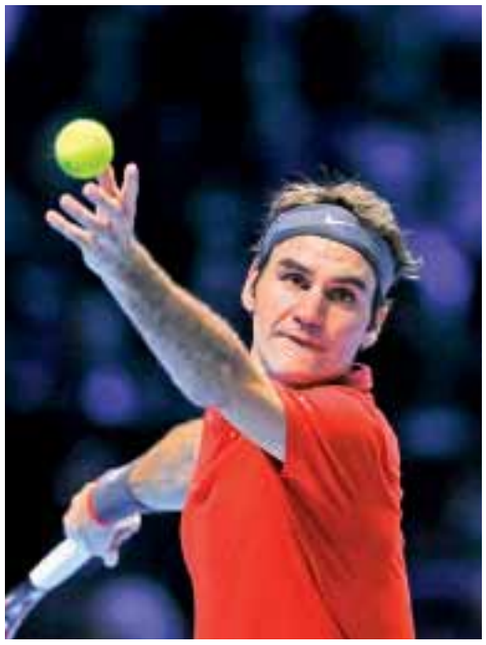
51

McDavid leads the OHL with 51 points on 16 goals and 35 assists in just 18 games this season. That's a pace that would've gotten him past Crosby's 168-point total in his second season in the QMJHL.

McDavid is out five to six weeks with a fracture of the fifth metacarpal bone in his right hand as a result of hitting the top of the boards during a fight Tuesday night with Mississauga's Bryson Cianfrone.

Though Erie Otters owner and general manager Sherry Bassin said he's "confident" his captain will be able to play for Canada at the world junior championship, the six-week time frame makes that a question mark.

"I think you just try to kind of take care of the present instead of thinking about too much down the road," Crosby said. "It's easier said than done sometimes." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fed Express flattens Murray

Switzerland's Roger Federer serves to Britain's Andy Murray during their singles ATP Finals match at the O2 arena in London on Thursday. Federer blew away Murray 6-0, 6-1 to finish the round-robin unbeaten, and hand Murray his worst defeat in seven years in front of his home crowd. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nominee Elimimian rewrites CFL history

Outstanding player award. Linebacker and tackle record breaker is first pure defensive player nominated for top individual honour

B.C. Lions linebacker Solomon Elimimian registered a CFL-record 143 tackles this season. JASON FRANSON/GETTY IMAGES

A record-breaking season has earned Solomon Elimimian a rare nomination. The B.C. Lions linebacker was named the West Division finalist for the CFL's outstanding player award Thursday after registering a league-record 143 tackles. The six-foot, 227-pound Elimimian became the first pure defensive player named a conference nominee for the league's most sought-after individual honour.

"It's a great honour and I'd be remiss if I didn't appreciate my teammates and thank them for all they've done and how they've motivated me to be the best player I could be," Elimimian said in a telephone interview. "In 2010 I came to Canada fourth on the depth chart. I didn't start, got hurt then I finally made it on the roster.

"After winning the Grey Cup in '11, I went to the U.S. (signed with NFL's Minnesota Vikings) but it didn't work out. In 2012 I was injured a lot but bounced back in 2013 so when I think about all the adversity I've been through it makes it even sweeter."

Several two-way performers have won the outstanding player award — in 1992 Ottawa linebacker Angelo Snipes was a runner-up to Calgary quarterback Doug Flutie for the honour — but Elimimian is the first defence-only star to be named a division finalist.

Toronto Argonauts quarterback Ricky Ray was named the East Division's outstanding player for a second straight year in voting by the Football Reporters of Canada and nine CFL head coaches. Despite injuries to veteran receivers as Chad Owens, Andre Durie and Jason Barnes, and promising rookie Anthony Coombs, Ray led the CFL in passing yards (4,595), TDs (28), completion percentage (68.5 per cent) and completions (425).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across?
Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers.
It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't let self-doubt creep into your mind. If a certain course of action was right before, it is still right. There is nothing wrong with what you are doing but your attitude could be better.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You need something to take your mind off your problems. Better still, you need to reorder your mind so you can see they are not really problems at all.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Try not to exaggerate your troubles today, because with the Sun at odds with Jupiter, planet of expansion, things could easily get out of control.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you approach a work or relationship problem from a predictable angle then you will get a predictable answer. But if you creep up on it you may discover something you had not noticed before — that it's not really a problem at all.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A financial matter must be left to run its course. You could've done more to influence the outcome but it's too late now.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be able to see where loved ones are going wrong but unless they specifically ask for your assistance you are advised to keep your distance.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
What you are given today may not be what you wanted but if you accept it in the right spirit it will lead to something better.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Every turn you take seems to lead further away from what you are aiming for. Could it be that your subconscious mind is trying to warn you that what you're aiming for isn't desirable?

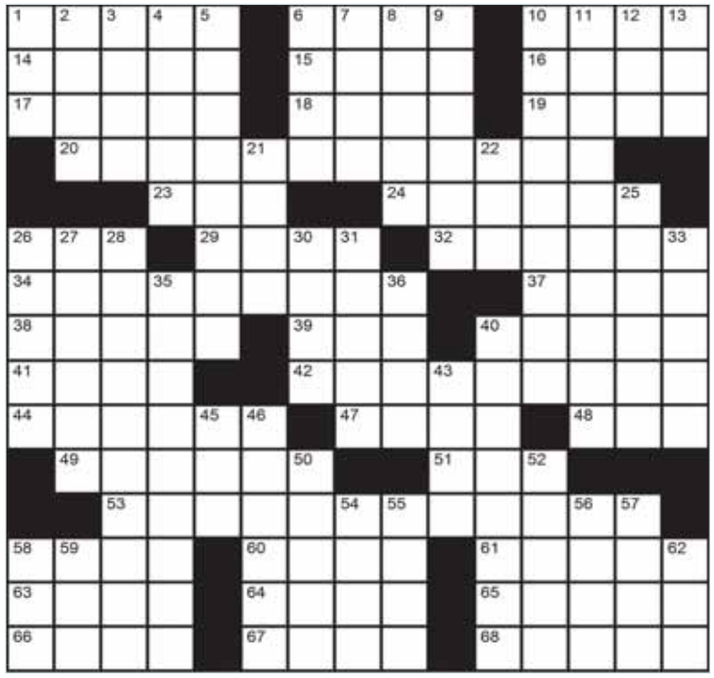
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Something will challenge your established opinions today and you could even find yourself agreeing with ideas and theories you once dismissed.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have a tendency to work harder than most people but with the Sun at odds with Jupiter today you could go too far and exhaust yourself.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be inclined to throw caution to the wind and take a gamble but the planets indicate it could go wrong. You don't have to take risks to get what you need — just stick to your present course.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If a friend proposes something out of the ordinary it might be wise to hold back from getting involved. This is one of those occasions when what seems like a great idea turns out not to be.

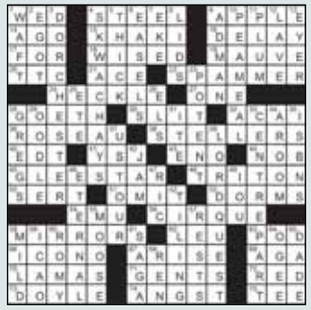
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Liver or kidney
6. Tree-to-apple attachment
10. Bag brand
14. Steal, archaically
15. Cover
16. "The Golden Girls" role
17. Beneath
18. Segment
19. Repeat
20. 1998 to 2003 series for Canadian actor Joshua Jackson: 2 wds.
23. "__ Kids" (2001)
24. Huge amounts
26. Guitarist's prop
29. 'Ballad' suffixes
32. Got totally ticked off: 2 wds.
34. Cape Breton Island set movie starring British actress Helena Bonham Carter, "__ Museum" (1995)
37. Heraldic border
38. 2009 Whitney Houston album: '_ __ to You'
39. Canuck motorists org.
40. Displayed displeasure
41. De __ (Again, in Latin)
42. Not cooked enough
44. Antsy: 2 wds.
47. "Breakadawn" by __ __ Soul
48. Beatles' "Maggie __"
49. Full
51. 'Hotel' suffix
53. Giant sweet baked treats which #40-Down is famous for: 2 wds.
58. Mr. Emanuel (Former White House Chief of Staff who is Chicago's current mayor)
60. Without change: 2 wds.
61. __-__-over
63. __ Wyck (1941 book by Victoria artist Emily Carr)
64. Jules Verne's Captain
65. Give back borrowed money
66. Rowing implements
67. Islands: French
68. Some tides

Down
1. Sphere
2. Marsh plant
3. Apple variety
4. Declares
5. Language in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four
6. Banish
7. Cans
8. Order
9. Montreal subways
10. Canadian actor Bruce
11. Sports stadium spot: 2 wds.
12. Bonfire leftover
13. God willing, __ volente
21. __ and terminer
22. Bambi's aunt
25. Actress/singer Ms. Gomez
26. __ acid
27. "Cheers" bartender Sam
28. __ Bridge (Spanning the Red River, it links St. Boniface to downtown Winnipeg)
30. Receipt: French
31. Support sort
33. Actress sister of Michelle Pfeiffer
35. Tom Cochrane & Red Rider song: 2 wds.
36. Single-named songstress
40. Yukon: __ Lodge (An hour from Whitehorse, famous stop at Mile 55 on the Klondike Highway)
43. Tiger Woods' ex-wife
45. __ rummy
46. Verdi opera of 1844
50. Work-of-art displayer
52. Currency of India
54. Street performer
55. Bears: Spanish
56. Wine region of Calif.
57. Crack
58. Movie studio
59. Mobile's li'l state
62. Prefix to 'functional'

Yesterday's Crossword

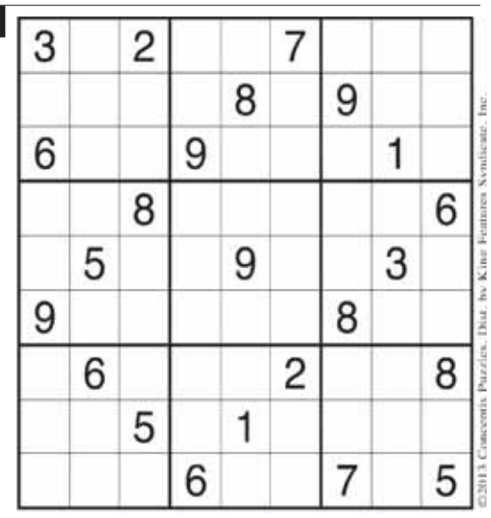


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	5	9	7	1	4	2	8
4	9	7	2	3	8	6	5	1
1	8	2	6	5	4	3	9	7
7	6	4	3	8	5	9	1	2
2	5	8	1	9	6	7	3	4
9	1	3	4	2	7	5	8	6
5	4	9	8	6	2	1	7	3
8	7	6	5	1	3	2	4	9
3	2	1	7	4	9	8	6	5

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454 BELIVEAU CONDOMINIUMS

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"Once people see the suites, they're acting, and quickly"

Sometimes – especially in real estate – you need to see something firsthand to believe it.

That's the case with 454 Beliveau Condominiums, said Cornerstone Real Estate's Garry Hirsch.

"This is the Sunrex Group of Companies' latest condominium community, and it's one of their best to date," he said. "It's a project that offers affordable luxury. But to see what that means, you actually have to walk through the one and two-bedroom display suites to get an idea of how much style – and value – they deliver. Prices range from $164,900 to $169,900 for one-bedroom suites and $184,900 to $199,900 for two bedroom suites. That's unbeatable value."

That value is unbeatable because suites not only deliver style and value, but they also deliver quality in every area.

"Sunrex means it when they say their condominium communities will deliver quality, value and style," said Hirsch, who's marketing 454 Beliveau along with his wife, Debbie Hirsch. "In particular, the quality of the finishes you see throughout all the suites is outstanding."

An example of each suite's high finishing quality is on display in the galley-style kitchens, which feature two finishes: white cabinets with grey laminate countertops, or dark, textured wood veneer cabinets with taupe laminate countertops.

"Kitchens also come equipped with elegant white subway tile backsplashes and four brand-new Whirlpool stainless steel appliances – a smooth top self-cleaning stove, fridge with bottom-load freezer, multi-cycle dishwasher and over-the-range microwave/hood fan," said Debbie. "It's an impressive appliance package."

Flooring choices are equally impressive. Choices include either hardwood-style laminate flooring, or short twist nylon carpet in living rooms; durable vinyl flooring in kitchens; and plush wall-to-wall carpet in bedrooms. Garry Hirsch said the amenities don't end there. "There are bar-style counters for two to three that open from kitchens onto living rooms, creating a nice open space that's fabulous for entertaining," he said. "Living rooms are spacious, and feature new seven-foot patio doors that lead to either a huge covered deck along with private fenced yard with all main floor suites, or private, oversized balconies on upper floors. Both areas are ideal for entertaining, or relaxing in style, and comfort."

You get far more than you bargained for at 454 Beliveau

Master suites and bathrooms are also loaded with functional – and desirable – features, added Hirsch.

"All master bedrooms are huge with plush carpeting, new dual-pane windows and deep walk-in closets. Right across the way from master suites is a beautiful four-piece bath with new soaker tub, tile surround, oval Uber-Haus sink with mod faucet – and gorgeous glass tile trim in the shower and over the sink. It's a relaxing, spa-like space that's as luxurious as ensuites that come with condominiums that cost thousands more."

In fact, the suites at 454 Beliveau do look as if they should bear a higher price tag, but don't. It's a quality that's rare in condominium communities these days, whether they be new or old.

"I would put it this way – you get far more than you bargained for at 454 Beliveau," said Hirsch. "Sunrex has done an amazing job, to say the least. They've managed to deliver incredible value without sacrificing style. You have to see it to believe it."

Royal LePage Dynamic Realty's Sheraz Ali said once people see the suites, they're acting, and quickly.

"The suites are selling like crazy," he said. "I've sold three already and I'm bringing more clients back here to buy because the suites are incredibly priced and offer unrivalled style and value."

Located in the heart of historic St. Vital, 454 Beliveau's condominium complex consists of 72 one and two-bedroom suites. One-bedroom suites (Brookview, Aristocrat) range is size from 650 to 675 sq. ft., and are only $164,900 to $169,900, while two bedroom suites (Richmond, Edgebrook) offer 880 sq. ft. of space for and unbeatable $184,900 to $199,900. "Every suite will be characterized by a bright, user-friendly layout," added Debbie Hirsch. "Suites have been transformed into open-concept spaces to allow for easy living.

Where else in Winnipeg can you find all these features for such an affordable price

Each unit is filled with light courtesy of well-placed, new dual-pane (low-E argon) windows. Kitchens in one-bedroom units even have large windows to maximize the entry of natural light."

As far as location is concerned, 454 Beliveau's positioning in St. Vital is hard to beat, too!

"The buildings are on a quiet street with green space on either side in a spot that's only minutes from schools, shopping, amenities and major transportation routes. You can be downtown in around 15 minutes and on the highway on your way out to your cottage in short order," Garry said.

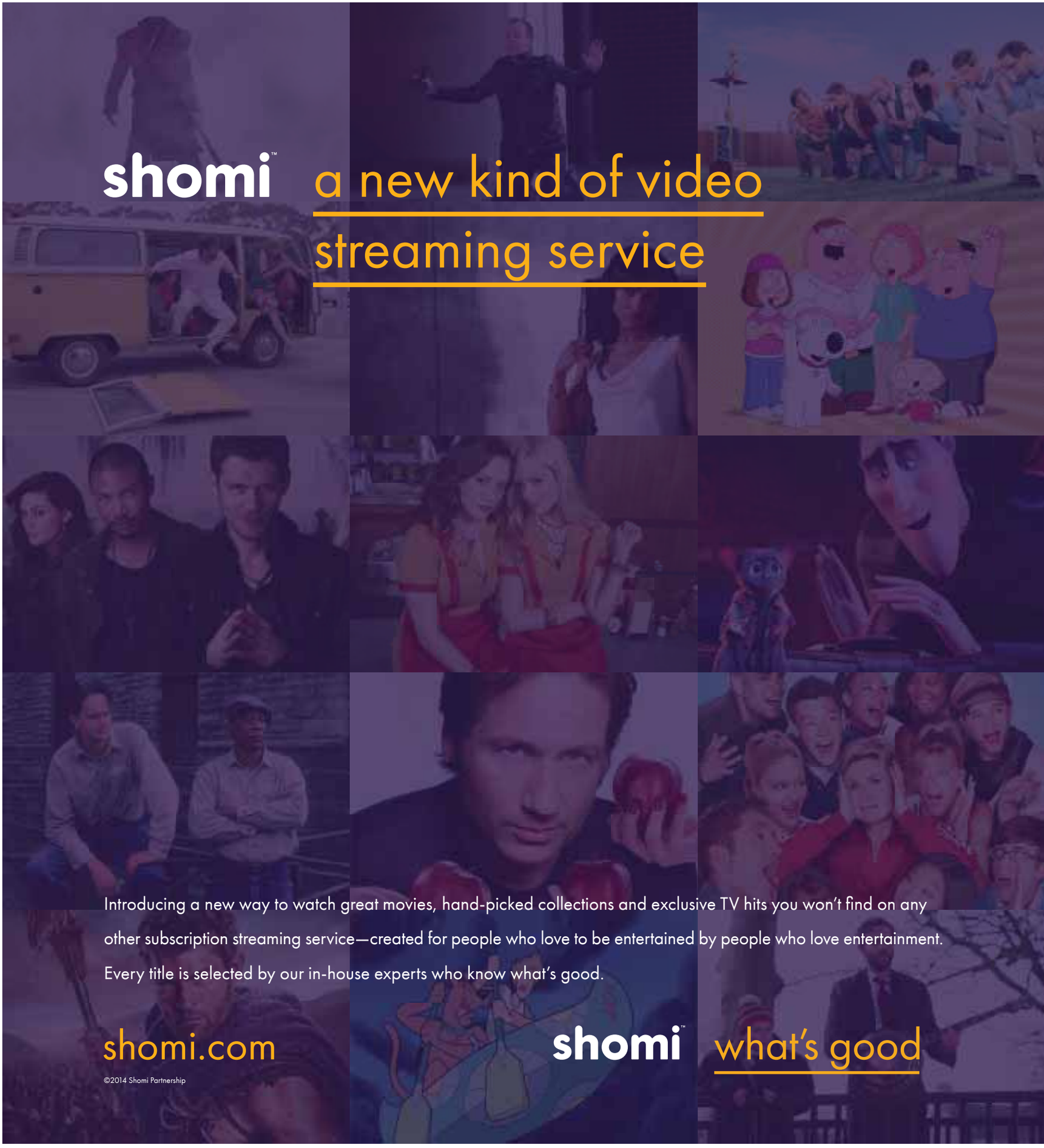
While style and value are important – the suites at 454 Beliveau are loaded with both – it's the overall quality of the project that sets it apart, he added.

"Buyers will be getting thoroughly renovated suites and buildings that are like-new from top-to-bottom, including new roofs, soffit, fascia, eaves troughs, windows, sidewalks, parking lots, fences and more," he said. "Where else in Winnipeg can you find all these features for such an affordable price? Units are solid, stylish and functional, and deliver incredible value in every area. They're a smart investment, and will be a great place to call home."

- Todd Lewys

Display suites are open @ 454 Beliveau Rd East (east of St. Annes) Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Monday and Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Or for more information on 454 Beliveau Condominiums' unsurpassed quality, value and style, visit www.454beliveau.ca, or call

Garry or Debbie Hirsch at (204) 489-4500 CORNERSTONE PROPERTIES INC.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